December 2009 MaUsE DoubleClick

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Photo credit: The front cover of this issue is a picture that Irma took of a building in Lucerne, Switzerland, when we were there earlier this year. If you would like to submit a image for the January or February 2010 DoubleClick, please send it to:
< mause.doubleclick@gmail.com >

From The Editor

What you are looking at is the December 2009 edition of the MaUsE DoubleClick, the online publication of the Macintosh Users East, (MaUsE), a motley collection of mostly harmless cranks who reside in Southern Ontario with their motley collection of old and new Macintosh, Hackentosh & MacClone computers.

The DoubleClick is published using a 2.8 GHz Aluminum iMac and QuarkXPress 8. An antique Kodak DX7590 is used for all pictures. Everything not specifically attributed to someone else can probably be blamed on the Editor. Back issues can be downloaded from the MaUsE website: < www.mause.ca >. Submissions from MaUsE Club members are almost always welcome.

Send your submissions and articles to me at < ducati860@gmail.com >, especially if there are files or pictures attached. I have never refused a submission yet. Because we care about the environment, the MaUsE DoubleClick is created using only recycled electrons: matter was neither created nor destroyed in the process of creating this issue. There are no infractions of the law of matter conservation. There is always room for another piece on any Mac-related topic and I'll make room if there isn't. I would like your submissions. But I won't beg.

Apple, Macintosh, and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. The MaUsE (Macintosh Users East) is an independent Mac user group and has not been authorized, sponsored, or otherwise approved of by Apple Computer, Inc. Its very much like they don't even know we exist.

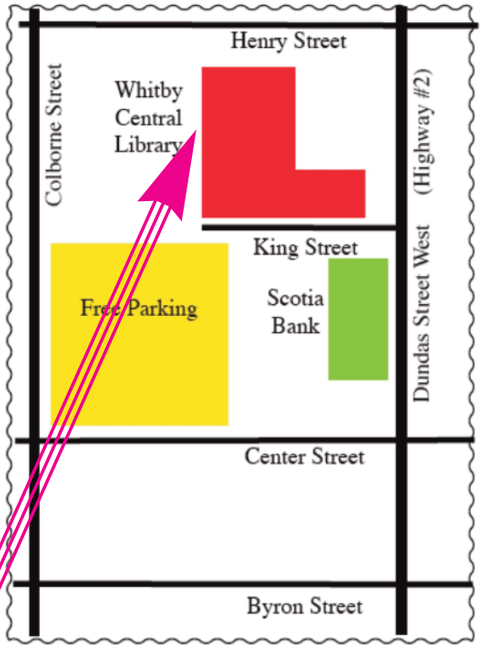
Michael Shaw, Editor

Ho Ho Ho !

It is hard to believe that 2009, the year of the Great Canadian Swine Flu Epidemic, is finally coming to an end. There are some who believe that the Recession we are in now will slowly get worse and then stay bad for a long time before it gets better. We call these people optimists. Actually, the truth is probably far more depressing. But we won't go into that now.

On behalf of all of the MaUsE Exec we would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year in the hopes that 2010 will be a better year than 2009 was. Or at least less of a stinker.

Remember that your MaUsE club is here for you and that the DoubleClick will welcome all submissions. This is your Mac computer club and your publication. Participate !!



MaUsE Meetings are held in Room 1 at the new Whitby Public Library on the south-east corner of Henry and Dundas West in Whitby, Ontario. Meetings start at 7:00 PM but there is an early session from 6:30 for people who wish to discuss hardware or software issues or problems. Macintosh virus problem discussion from 6:58 to 7:00 PM as and if required. Meetings are open to the public and admission is free. Raffle tickets at MaUsE events are free but the free raffle tickets for Macintosh hardware or software will only be given to paid-up MaUsE Members. Please remember to bring your Membership card to every meeting.

2009 MaUsE AGM Vote Results

A big thanks to all our members who managed to get out to the AGM meeting and cast their ballots for the Executive election. It was great to see such a large turnout on such a cold and wet night. Forty-three ballots were cast, which accounts for over fifty percent of the entire membership of the club and goes to show we are a very active and thriving group. We held our AGM at the start of the November meeting with the room jam-packed and a buzz in the air. With the aid of several of our current Executive members we managed to get through the mechanics of the vote without serious injury. At the climax, our esteemed President, Michael, announced the outcome of the tally. For the record, Aaron Vegh, Ian Winton and yours truly (Jeff Hurd) will be serving as Executives and Fred Fernbach will be attending the Executive meetings as a member representative. On behalf of all the club members, the Executive would like to thank each of the candidates for volunteering to stand for election and look forward to some great meetings in the coming year.

As always, the success of a club is decided by the contributions from its members. We are lucky to have many members with a great wealth of knowledge and more and more newer members who are very keen to learn. As all our members know and our visitors quickly find out, we are an easy going bunch and our meetings provide a laid back opportunity to meet, share and learn. However, putting on a meeting once a month and getting together a monthly newsletter (DoubleClick) is no mean feat, and we are always looking for volunteers to write a few words, suggest ideas or contribute in some other way. It's not everyone who feels comfortable talking in public on their own, but there is always the option to help one of the 'pros' by providing material or even taking a small part in the presentation of your favorite subject in one way or another. Speaking from my own experience, I know our audience is a very forgiving lot and there's always people around to help out.

Along with the Apple company, this club is going places and how far we get depends on what we can all put in. Being an active part of something successful is very rewarding. Your contributions, large and small, even just turning up to vote, all add up in the end.

Signed,
Jeff Hurd
Secretary, Macintosh Users East.

Macintosh Users East
It's a date! Mark your calendar

Actually a whole bunch of dates, those on which our
regular MaUsE meetings will be held in 2010.
The dates are...
Wednesday, January 27th
Wednesday, February 24th
Wednesday, March 24th
Wednesday, April 28th
Wednesday, May 26th
Wednesday, June 23rd
Wednesday, September 22nd
Wednesday, October 27th
Wednesday, November 24th

And don't forget to add two bonus 'Evening with Mac' events...
Wednesday, April 7th
Wednesday, October 6th

Mark your calendar now and plan at every opportunity
to be a participant in the Macintosh Users East
computer club's meetings.

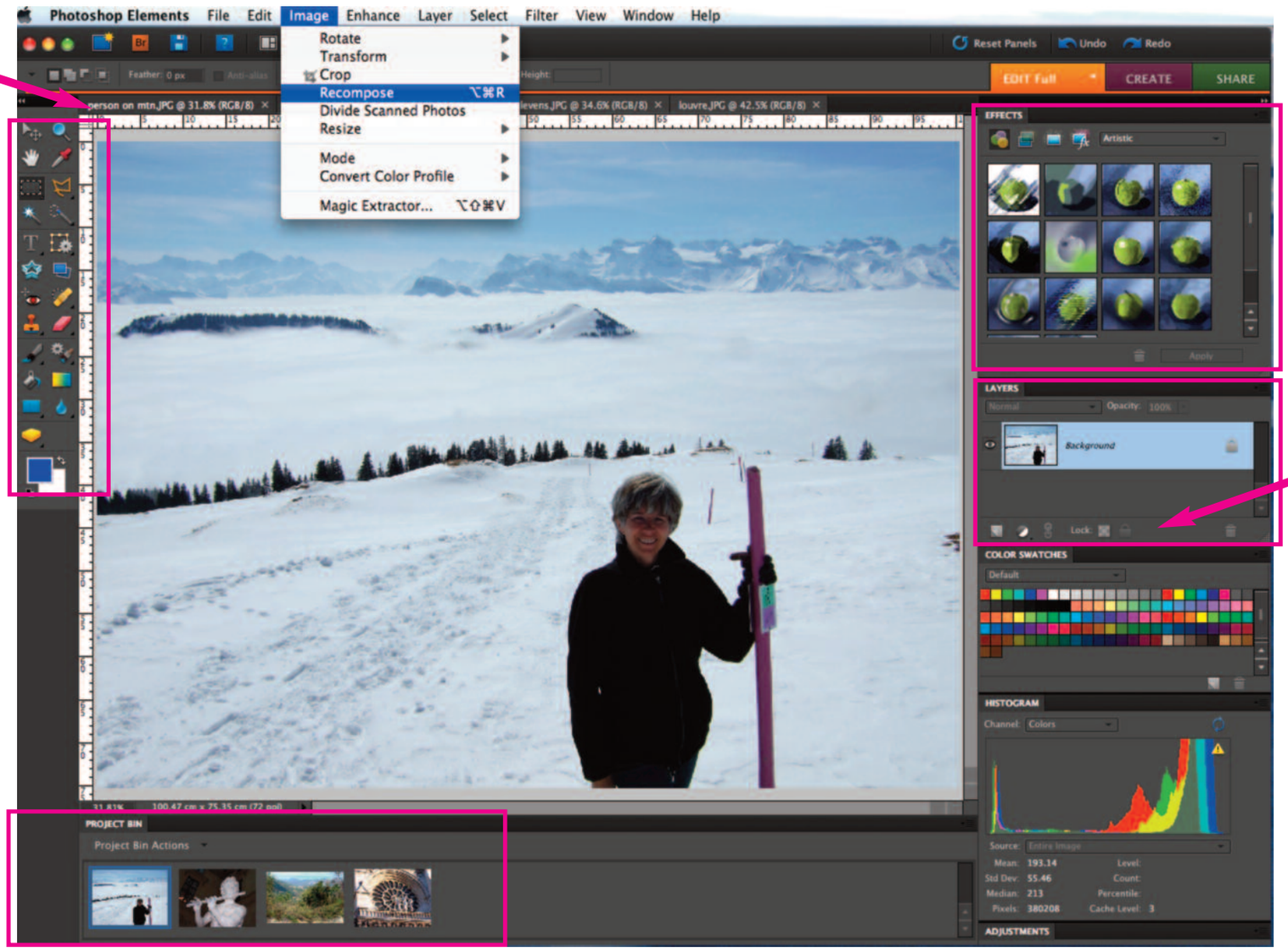
We get together on the dates listed above in Whitby Public Library's Meeting Room 1A & 1B, starting at 7.00 p.m. and usually ending around 9.30 p.m. If you have questions about hardware or software issues you can come early for the half-hour Help Session that starts before the meeting. Remember to check regularly on the web at < www.mause.com > for the latest issue of the DoubleClick, MaUsE's superb monthly online publication.

Adobe
Photoshop Elements 8 for Macintosh

It has been about two years since Adobe last updated the Macintosh version of Photoshop Elements. There may be some people who will be disappointed that there are no really big improvements introduced with this version but that might be a good thing: PS Elements 6 was a very solid performer at a great price and a lot of Mac users have had two years to get used to it.

Containing many of the most popular features of Adobe Photoshop but selling at a fraction of the cost of Photoshop CS, PS Elements has become a perennial favourite among digital photographers everywhere. Adobe is selling PSE 8 for only $80.00 but rather than market the program for $80.00 Adobe has chosen to apply this new lower price by selling PSE 8 for $100.00 and including a mail-in $20.00 rebate with each copy.

At first glance PSE 8 does not look that different from PSE 6. It opens with the same dark grey interface, however you can now choose a lighter look by going into Preferences and changing it to a light grey if you prefer. And unlike PSE 6 which when opened, hogged the entire screen and was awkward to resize and move, in this version the programmers have gone back to giving the user easily movable and resizable windows - which is an improvement.



The Recompose Tool

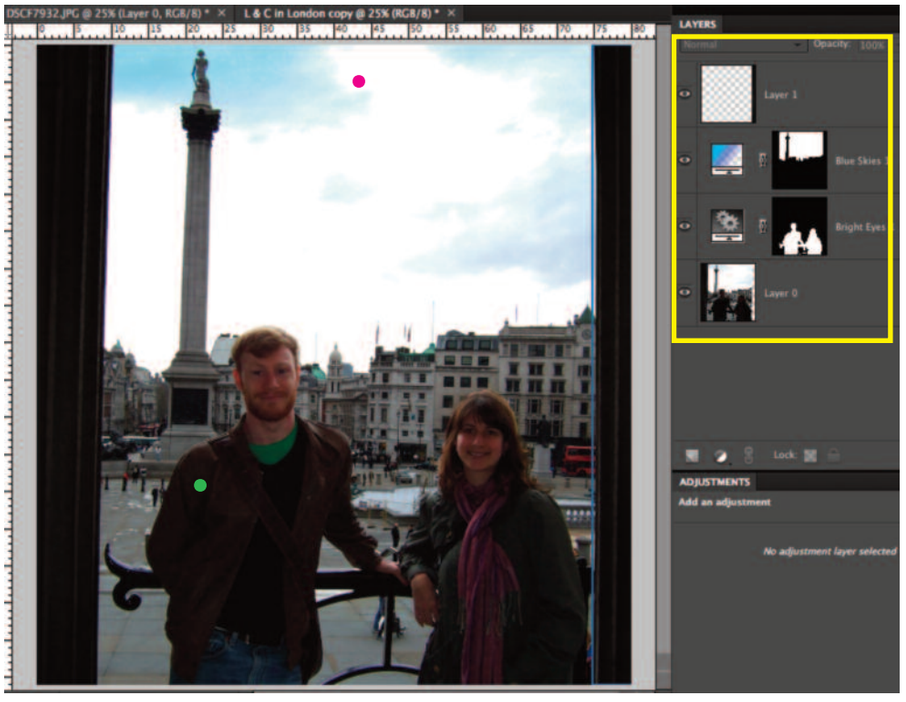
The first new tool I tried out is the Recompose tool. The Recompose tool is a great tool for eliminating unwanted objects while keeping important elements free from distortion. It also lets you bring the subjects in your photo closer together. The Recompose tool has two brushes to select the items you wish to keep and/or eliminate. In this test photo, as seen before Recomposing in the Elements window on the previous page, I wanted to eliminate the subject from the photo to focus on the mountains in the background, so I selected her with the red selection brush (removal brush), I then grabbed the side handle of the photo and dragged it inwards until the subject disappeared, but the landscape remained intact. As you can see from the resultant picture the subject has been successfully removed without the rest of the image being distorted.

I tested this tool out on several photos and it didn't work perfectly on every image. I found I got the best results with landscape-oriented photos that had distinct subjects which could be removed. In this photo I still had to retouch some seams using the Clone tool, but that's part of the fun of Photoshop. You can use this tool to remove spaces between objects and people in order to bring them closer together and to remove a person from a photo as well.

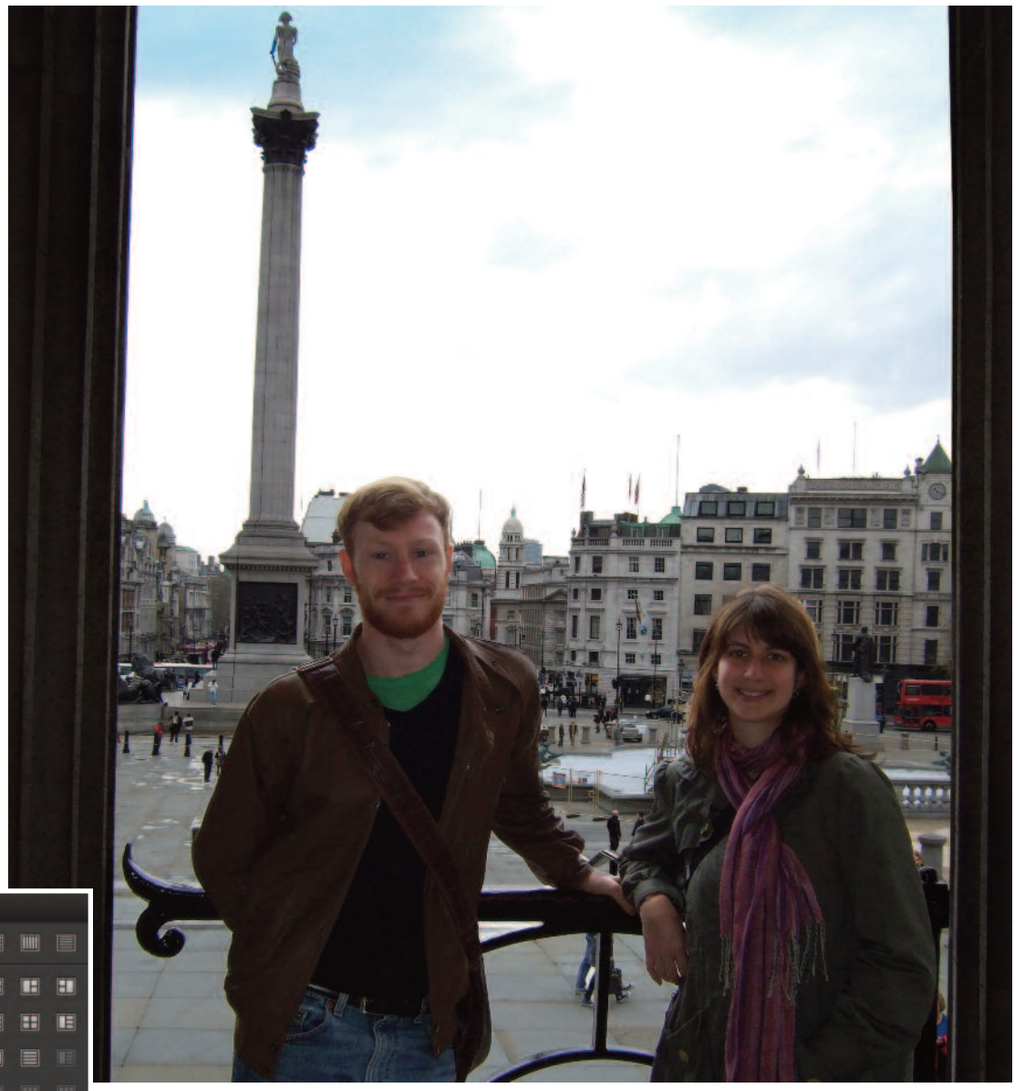
The Smart Brush Tool

This tool is a combination of the Quick Selection tool and Adjustment Layers. My test photo was shot looking outwards from the main entrance portico of the British National Museum in London, England, facing south towards Trafalgar Square and Nelson's column. It had stopped raining but the sky was still quite heavy. By shooting into the subdued lighting the background was clear but the subjects in the foreground were too dark. Using the Smart Brush tool, I first selected the two under-exposed subjects. An adjustment layer was then created, which you can then edit by double-clicking its icon in the layers panel.

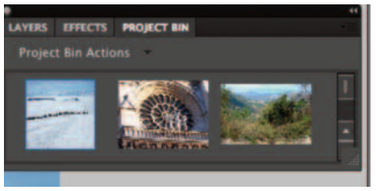
Green or red pins appear in the selection areas. Clicking on one will open the relevant adjustment dialog box. As you can see from the layers panel, the first adjustment was using Bright Eyes



which brightened up my selection of the two subjects, I then slightly enhanced the sky using the Blue Skies option after selecting the sky. I finished the photo by cropping and adding a column on the right for balance and definition. The Smart Brush tool really helped simplify these tasks and I could quickly see the results.

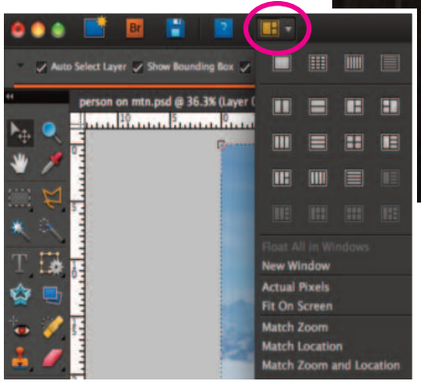


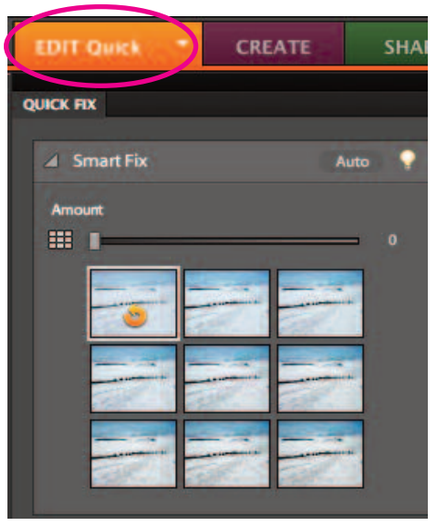
The PSE 8 Workspace



What is noticeably different is that pallets are now called panels and the shortcut icons on the panels have been moved to the bottom of the panel window. You can collapse or expand a panel by clicking once the black bar at the top or you can double click on the tab. You can also collapse your various palettes into tabs, so that it will just take you one click to see everything you need. Panels can be nested and the project bin can be moved into the panel area. This will give you more space on your desktop. If you want to hide everything but the Menu bar, press the tab key.

The Menu commands are virtually unchanged from version 6 except for buttons for Help, Bridge and Arrange Documents. The Arrange Documents button gives you a range of choices on how you manage your photos on the desktop and as another space saving option, you can put your open photos into tabs. For me this means I can collapse the Project Bin which I found space consuming, thus making the tab feature a very practical improvement (the tabs are similar to those in Safari and Firefox).





A couple of other improvements in PSE 8 are the addition of pull down rulers for easy alignment of your pics, and for the users of the Quick Edit Mode there are additional tools for whitening teeth and increasing saturation of skies.

Also in Quick Edit there is a new preview mode that enables you to see how the photo will look after adjustment, but before you apply it to the image. You click on the grid icon to the left of each slider and as you hover the cursor over each thumbnail in the grid, the image changes to preview the result. You simply click on the thumbnail to apply the image, then either commit or cancel. For users of Quick Edit mode, this is a bonus that makes digital enhancement quick and easy.

PSE 8 includes Adobe Bridge, which lets you browse, sort, and organize images, as well as filter them based on criteria you set. The criteria may include keywords, file types, dates, EXIF data (film speed, aperture, etc). You can also use Bridge to inspect an image before deciding whether to edit it in Elements. If you would rather stick with iPhoto-as I do-as your image organizer, you can simply set iPhoto to use Elements as its image editor.

I definitely prefer this improved version of Photoshop Elements 8 to version 6. It offers a nice set of enhancements to what is already an excellent program.

Submitted by Irma Shaw

Bamboo Pen and Touch From Wacom

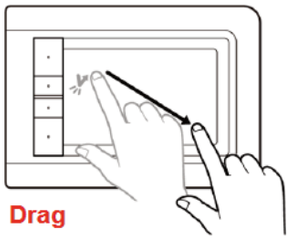
It is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas, even here in the sunny south, as I am writing this for you from Florida. Today a Bamboo Pen and Touch, from Wacom arrived. In the box is a Bamboo Fun tablet, with pen. Also included is the installation CD containing the drivers, tutorial and online manual. Wacom also included a software DVD containing Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 for Mac, Corel Painter Essentials 4, Nik Color Efex Pro 3, and free coupons from Shutterfly and Cafe Press. It also has Photoshop Elements 7 for Windows, as the Bamboo Pen and Touch tablet also works on P.C.'s but we don't talk about that system. After reading the operating manual, yes I do read operating manuals, as it is my job in our family to read them and then tell everyone how it works. Not everything in the world is unwrap, plug in and see what happens.

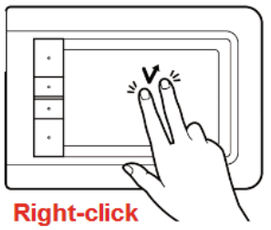
Unwrapping the Bamboo tablet was a real pleasure, it is well packaged for safe transportation. The people at Wacom care about you and your tablet experience, as the first thing you see when you open the box is a greeting asking you to let them know how your Bamboo experience goes. Everything inside the box has its own compartment, including one for the pen, and the pen tip extractor. Also included are three extra replacement pen tips. The pen fits into a pen holding strap on the side of the tablet. Wacom recommend that when you are not using the pen to store it here, but to put it into the holder by the eraser end first. This will help to preserve the pressure sensitive tip. I also kept the plastic shipping covers to store over mine for extra protection, as these are the working ends of the pen. The pen is extremely light, is wireless, and does not need a battery and is pressure sensitive. This come in very handy when you use it to draw with, as the harder you press down on the pen, the wider the line you get in your drawing. The pen also will write your name, or using "inkwell" will allow you to write what you want to say, and your commuter will type it for you. One of the nice features is that you do not have to touch the tablet surface to have the pen move the pointer on your screen, this makes it very very fast. It also has two buttons built in which I will expand upon later. The pen is tablet specific, and will not work on other Bamboo tablets.The overall size of the Bamboo "Medium" is the same size as a MacBook.(13 Inches) as you can see when I put the two of them side by side in photo #1.

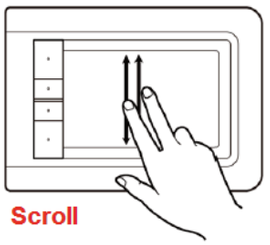
The Bamboo Pen and Touch, can be orientated for either right or left hand operation. It connects to your Mac via a USB connection. As I am right handed, I will write this review based on my set up. As you can see in photo #2 on the left hand side of the Wacom Bamboo Pen and Touch are four express keys. This is the white area, in the photo. These keys light up once you have programmed them. They can be program for common functions of many applications, such as double click, right click to open a menu screen, and forward or back in a web browser. You can also program them for keyboard shortcuts like "Command Z" for Photoshop. This will undo an action you just preformed on a duplicate of one of your Photo's. After all we never never work on our originals do we.

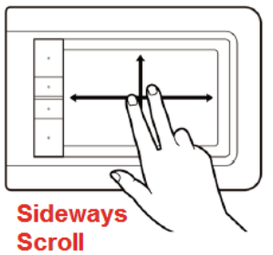
The installation of the Wacom software was very easy and the video tutorial that came with the software was extremely informative. It had practice sessions built into it so you could follow along and get familiar with both the touch actions, and also the pen operation. The tablet is proportioned so that the entire active area is equal to your entire computer screen. It can be partitioned off so that if you use two monitors, it will do work on both of them. The pen has two buttons, which can be programmed for different functions such as double click, or right click. The pen can be used for click and drag, and because it does not have to be in contact with the active surface it can move the pointer around your screen very quickly. It is also very easy on the hand and arm which is important to me as this increases the time I can work on my Mac without doing injury to myself, from the computer hazard known as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome or CTS. I have only had the tablet hooked up for about two hours so far but I can already see that it will become a very important part of my photo work flow in the very near future. So far I have only talked about the pen functions of the Wacom Bamboo Pen and Touch. You don't need to use the pen to communicate you can just use common finger gestures that you probably are already familiar with if you have a MacBook of any kind.

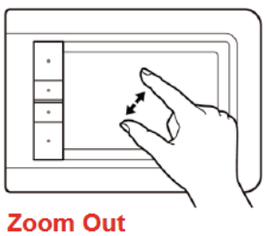
The Bamboo Pen and Touch uses Multi-Touch technology. Multi-Touch provides you with a natural way to work by sensing input from more then one finger at a time. There are nine gestures that you can use such as Navigate, Click, Double Click, Right Click, Forward & Back, Scroll, Select & Drag, Rotate, and last but not least Zoom. As you can see these give you a very wide range to be able to work with a lot of different applications. So as not to make this article too long, I will cut it off at this point, but know that I am not finished reviewing the Bamboo Pen and Touch, from Wacom. I will continue to use it over the winter, and when I return in the spring, I hope to be able to once again tell you what wonderful things I have discovered while using my Bamboo Pen and Touch, as by then I will have more experience with it. This it's a great item to put on your wish list for Christmas, if you haven't come up with some thing that you really want by now. As this article should be in the December double-click I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

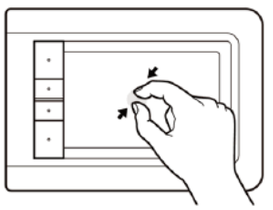


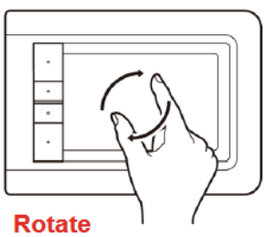


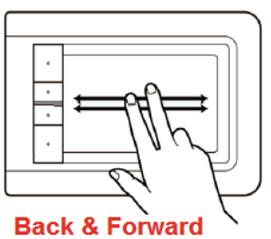






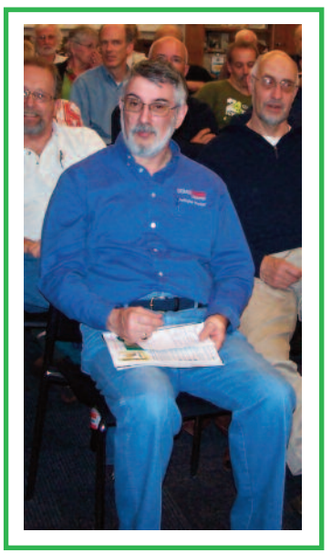






Submitted by Kevin Livesey

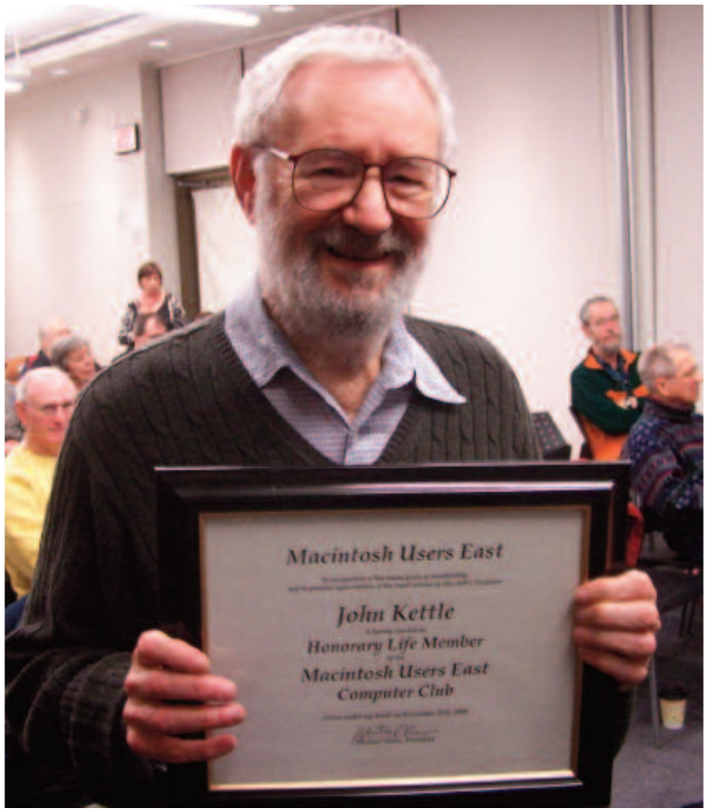
BAMBOO
Bamboo
Bamboo Pen
Bamboo Touch
Bamboo Fun
Introducing an exciting, new way to communicate with your computer.
Wacom now adds Multi-Touch to Bamboo, allowing you to use simple finger taps and hand gestures to communicate with your computer.



November 25th MaUsE Meeting Report

Well. I don't know where to start. We held our Annual General Meeting (the AGM) before the regular meeting commenced and it was a good thing we did. The weather was cool and clear as we finished up the first November in 180 years in which no snow fell. If this is global warming, I'm all for it.

Most of the Exec showed up early and Stan, Jim and Jeff had membership lists to check, ballots to distribute and then to count, reports to make. I had awards to hand out to John, our newest Honorary Life Member, and Chris, our MaUsE President Emeritas, and lots of other stuff to tell the membership about. Jeff officially announced that Marcel is our new Apple Ambassador. I was handed the election results and announced that Aaron would continue on as Vice President of MaUsE, Jeff would continue on as Secretary and Ian has joined us on the MaUsE Exec. See his name and new title on Page 2 of this issue. Stan gave the Treasurers Report and later on also ran the membership Loyalty Draw at the end of the meeting, awarding a $100.00 gift certificate and a flash drive to two lucky MaUsE members. Aaron talked about capturing video screenshots with Snow Leopard. Bruce spoke about Topica. I spoke about the Mac 101 website resources and provided twenty "Mac 101" CDs with Mac OSX 10.5 Leopard manuals and training resources for the membership. If you did not get one do not despair: I will be bringing a bunch more to the first MaUsE meeting in January 2010.



Aaron spoke about updating your system software with System Update... and the new stuff at Apple. We had two entertaining and educational presentations after the break: I invited Phil Taylor from Mainly Mac, our nearest Apple-authorised VAR and Mac service center, to tell us about what they do at Mainly Mac and what services they provide. Phil brought in a new 27-inch iMac for a show & tell and two sets of M-AUDIO Premium Compact Speakers and some other swell stuff for the MaUsE Raffle. Then Ian sang and performed on his musical instruments into GarageBand to show us how multiple tracks could be assembled. Bruce took care of the mixing board and kept the computers, speakers, microphones and sound system working properly. I ran the MaUsE Raffle and Irma took pictures of the winners. We had a few new faces in the audience and a few new members sign up during the meeting. A good time was had by all. Hugh Amos graced us with his presence !

Premium
Compact
Speakers

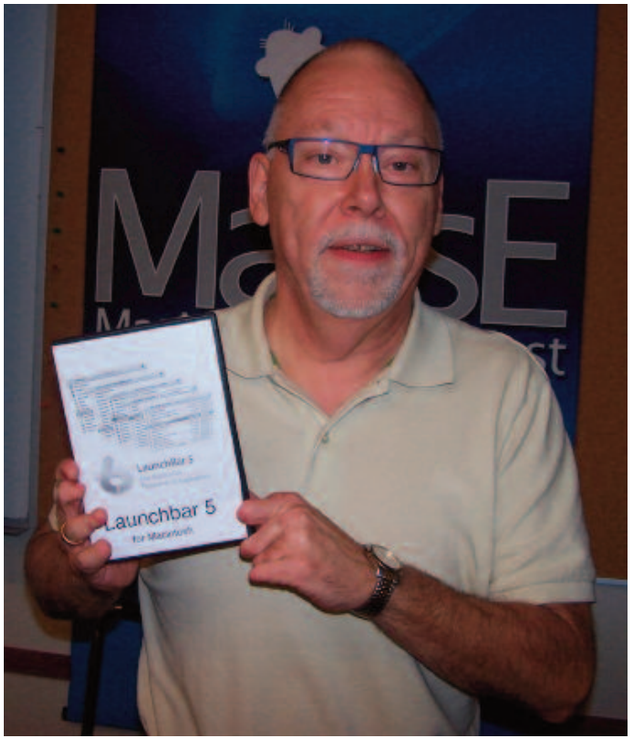
MaUsE
Macintosh Users

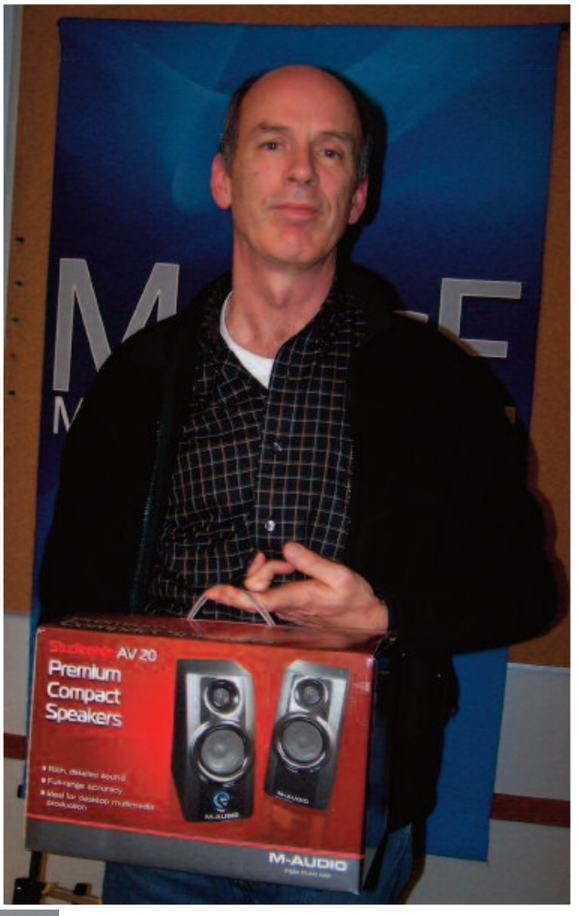
MaUsE
Macintosh Users East

UsE
Users East
Drive Genius 2

TRENDnet
Apple

MaUs
Macintosh
Drive Genius 2





MaUsE
Macintosh Users East

Ian Winton:
More About GarageBand

Pursuant to the scathingly brilliant demonstration of GarageBand performed at the Nov. 25th meeting, here is Ian's description of the procedure he uses to create multiple-track tunes in GarageBand.

• 1. Open Garage Band
• 2. Click on Acoustic Instrument, then Choose.
• 3. Write the name of the tune in "Save As".
• 4. In this case "Sloop John B"...
• 5. For this song choose 115 BPM (you can change it once the main window is open). In 4/4 time, (though it maybe in 2/4).
• 6. It is most important tell the computer in which key you're going to play, in this case D major. What is important about telling the computer the key in which you're playing, is that if later you ask it to change to EFG or whatever, it will do it for you correctly.
• 7. Press Create.
• 8. Go to Control, and click "Show Tempo in LCD". In the middle at the bottom you will see the speed, time signature and the key that we're playing in.
• 9. Now we are ready to make music.
• 10. Go to Control again, and make sure Metronome is ticked, and "Count In" is ticked. You can control the metronome volume by the regular Mac volume control at the top.
• 11. Go to Track, then click on "New Basic Track" at the bottom. What is going to happen is that the metronome is going to tick along, and it will be quite audible. Now I'm going to sing quietly into the computer on the new track which is showing a light blue colour (active track). The upper track which is showing Grey will be the metronome count and I will sing along quietly in time with the metronome count. The computer will record both tracks, as it hears both tracks. I want that metronome count to sound quite strongly with the basic singing track that I am going to lay down. If I plug in the headset, the metronome count will sound only in my ear, and it will not appear on the soundtrack. I am using the metronome as if it's a simple drum. Later I will use the headset so the computer cannot hear the previously recorded tracks, but I can. (I need separate/independent tracks so I can edit them later).
• 12. You can press the red record button on the bottom, which starts the recording, and you will hear the metronome count to lead you in.
• 13. I let the metronome Count me in, (4 beats in this case) then I play and sing the song.

• 14. When I have finished I press the play/stop button, then I press the return arrow, (which is three little boxes to the left) which takes me right back to the beginning.
• 15. Now I can clicked on play/stop, and hear if I stayed on tempo. Now we have begun. I will start adding new tracks, so:-----
• 16. At the bottom left-hand corner is a plus sign. I click on the plus sign, then I click on the Real Instrument window and then the Create button, I get another track.
• 17. This is where I get slightly tricky, I plug in my headset to both the microphone and the headset sockets. The sockets are at the back on the bottom right. What happens is that the computer plays the music into my ear via the headset, and the computer itself cannot hear the music, so it won't re-record previous tracks on the new track.
• 18. What I'm going to do now, is to sing harmony and only what I'm singing will be picked up by my headset mike,and it will be laid down on this new track (track number three). (If I took the microphone plug out and left the headphone plug in I could sing at the computer and it would pick me up). Now I press the red record button again.
• 19. When I have finished laying down the track, I press (play/stop) then return. Now if I unplug my headset, then the play/stop button I will hear: the metronome count with my singing; and the new track with just my harmony on it.
• 20. Next I am going to play bass in front of the computer, so I want the microphone in the computer to pick up my bass, I press the plus button etcetera, and get a new track. I press the "go back to the beginning" sign.
• 21. This time I plug in only the headset jack.
• 22. When I press the record (red) button, I will hear the other three tracks through the headset, but the computer won't, it will hear only the bass.
• 23. When I have finished, I can listen to all of the created tracks together, by removing the headphone plug from the back of the computer. If the track is still highlighted, I can delete it if I don't like it, by pressing the delete button. If you delete it by mistake you simply go to back up to Edit and tell it to "Undo Delete". Using the same technique of muting the computer by plugging in the headset, I can make as many clean tracks as I wish. I believe if I lay down a tune, I can change it into a trumpet saxophone or any other instrument listed in the program, but I don't know how to do it yet.

Submitted by Ian Winton

Requiem for Psystar

There has been a lot written about Psystar since mid-April, 2008, when the company announced that it has created a Mac-clone for US $399.00 that would run Mac OSX 10.5. Articles with titles like **"Psystar: Hoax or fraud?"** and **"Psystar mystery adds up to phishing scam"** appeared almost instantly and many people watched and waited for Apple to drag Psystar principal, Rodolfo Pedraza, into court in a bid to stifle Psystar and to enforce the terms of their End User License Agreement.

Early efforts to research Psystar shortly after their announcement brought up questions regarding the company's very existence and just how legitimate they were. Several addresses were provided (five in four days) and Psystar was taking credit card numbers but not processing them because their processing company, Powerpay, had revoked Psystar's account for term agreement violations, and there were claims that their website had malware on it.

I contacted Psystar immediately, hoping to find out more about this fledgling company of pioneers or pirates, and offered them my enthusiastic support for their efforts. I wrote a few articles about the company and its products, less dismissive and incendiary than a lot of the other articles floating on the internet, and watched the Psystar story unfold in the US courts.

Here it is the end of 2009. The Apple vs. Psystar issue has just now been settled in the US courts, entirely in Apple's favour. Psystar will cease & desist and damages will be assessed. Many Apple users see this as a good thing, with Apple righteously defending their EULA and preserving the purity of their product. Personally, I was hoping that the Apple vs.Psystar chapter would go on for many years while the US courts dragged their red-tape-tangled feet from California to Florida and back again.

I did not side with Psystar over the issue of building MacClones just to be contrary: I really believe that the biggest wake-up call that Apple ever got was the MacClone-licensing episode that ended in 1997. The "Clone Wars" of the late 1990s brought Steve Jobs and NeXT into Apple's list of assets and proved that Apple could not succeed if they continued to produce lack-luster, over-priced products. Comparing the stock Apple computers of 1997 to my own MacClones from that time, (a **Daystar Genesis 800 MP+** and a **PowerTower Pro 225**) gives ample proof that the consumer ultimately benefits from competition in the marketplace. The clone makers not only built and sold cheaper Macs than Apple could, they also built and sold better, faster, more upgradeable Macs than Apple wanted to.

> Requiem æternam dona Psystar, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat Psystar.
> Te decet hymnus Deus, in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Ierusalem.
> Exaudi orationem meam: ad te omnis caro veniet.
> Requiem æternam dona Psystar, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat Psystar.

The April 2008 Psystar MacClone included:
• Mac OSX 10.5, • 2.2 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor,
• 2 GB of DDR2 667 memory, • Integrated Intel GMA 950 Graphics, • 20x DVD+/-R drive, • 4 USB ports
• a 250 GB 7200 RMP drive...
• **For US $399.00.**

The newest 2009 Psystar Open(7) MacClone included:
• Mac OSX 10.6 (plus iLife plus iWork), • 2.66GHz Quad-Core i7 Nehalem processor, • 6 GB of DDR3 1333 memory,
• 1TB 7,200 RPM SATA2 w/32MB Cache, • 22x DVD±RW DL.
• GeForce 9600GSO 1GB, • Three Year Parts and Support...
• **For US $1,599.99.**

Psystar has lost and Apple has won. But maybe we all lost out when Psystar went down. I can only wonder how the prices of future Macs would have been affected if Psystar had been allowed to bring a Quad-core Open(7) Psystar tower to the market **configured just like the Quad core Mac Pro**, and with three years support, but priced at only US $1,599.99 instead of US $3,298.00.

Really - If you were allowed to make the choice, which would you rather pay to run Snow Leopard ?

Article submitted by Michael Shaw

Head Phones for the Average iPod User From Emerge Technologies

There are three things that I expect my headphones will do for me. They need to produce a high fidelity sound. They should shield ambient noise to a certain extent. They should not fall out of place as I move about. The headphones that come with my Apple iPod have serious limitations as far as these three points are concerned. Yes, they produce a great sound but I am always having to readjust them as I move around. They fall out of place too easily. They also do a very poor job of drowning out average traffic noise as I walk along the street listening to a podcast. I do not want to have to continually adjust the sound nor do I want to set the volume too loud just to try to negate some of the traffic noise. This volume would be too loud and could lead to hearing loss.

I decided that a different set of headphones might be a good alternative to the Apple ones. I got a pair of Sony Street Style Headphones. These were lightweight and had a band that looped over my head and plastic that wrapped around each ear. They gave me very good fidelity and stayed in place. As an added bonus, they even acted as fairly good ear muffs in cold weather. But the ambient noise was still there. I could not hear properly if I walked along any street that had a modicum of traffic.

I decided that I would try a set of earbud headphones. These are the type that resemble ear plugs. They go right into the ear canal and fit there snugly. Emerge Technologies was kind enough to send me some earbuds to try out. The four headphones they sent were: a Noise Reduction earbud, their Platinum Series earbud, the Ear-wrap Sports Earphones and a Stereo Headset earbud with microphone combination.

Sports-Style Stereo Earbuds with Ear-Wrap

All four of these headphones had very good fidelity and they all stayed in place when I was walking. As an added bonus, they have a fantastic feature, a retractable cord and clip. The retractable cord with a clip allows you to attach the middle of the cord to a collar or shirt. By pulling on each end of the cord, you can stretch it out to the length that you find comfortable. Tugging them again will cause them to retract for easy storage. No more tangled cords to slow you down. With most other headphones, I always had to spend a bit of time untangling them before use. The clip means that you don't have the cord getting caught and pulling out the headphones. This feature alone puts the Emerge earbuds way ahead of the competition.

Platinum Series In-Ear-Style Earbuds

So now I have four earbuds from Emerge Technology that have a sound quality as good as my Sony headphones but which cost less. In general, they stay in place way better than the Apple headphones but they are not as good as the Sony set which wrapped right around each ear (the exception being the Sports earphones which are as good). I experimented with the three different size attachments that came with each earbud to determine the one that worked best with my outer ear canal. This led to a reasonably stable arrangement in that I rarely had to push the earbud back into place as I moved around. Now for the deciding factor, will they drown out the traffic noise? The sports earphones are not really earbuds. They wrap around the ear and rest there. They did not keep the traffic noise down but they would work better than the others during exercise. There is no way these are going to fall out as you are running around. I would recommend these to anyone using their iPod while at the gym. They are much lighter that the Sony headphones or any other headphone that most would use while exercising. This headset costs about $20.00(USD). The others did keep out the traffic noise such that I was able to keep listening to my iPod without interruption. Of course, large trucks are still a problem but nothing is perfect.

I did find another annoyance that the Sony headset did not have. If the wind was in a certain direction, it would whistle through the earbuds and drown out the sound. This was alleviated by turning my head slightly so that the wind did not hit me directly in the face.

On cold days, I could revert to the Sony headphones as they are a good ear muff. However, the earbuds would allow me to put on the head band I often wear in winter and this would also remove the wind effect. Maybe I won't be using the Sony headphones again.

The Noise Reduction earbuds at $20 are the best buy of the four. They provided good sound quality, stability as far as staying in place, and with the correct attachment, good sound reduction. The Platinum Series at $30 has a bit better sound quality while retaining the stability and noise dampening. This is the set I prefer. The Stereo Headset earbud and microphone has reasonable sound quality, dampening and stability. It sells for $25 but has the added feature of a microphone and a sound volume control right next to the clip. You might like this one with the new cellphone laws in place.

Emerge Technology produces a very good headset at a middle of the road cost. You can get a $5 headphone but you will be buying something with poorer sound quality and a cord that will probably break the first time it gets tugged the wrong way. Emerge products range from $20-$30 and are quality headphones that are sturdy. You get good sound quality for a reasonable price. There are headphones that sell for $50 and much more. These are primarily for use in a studio and not for the average iPod listener. You can't go wrong getting one of the Emerge Technology headphones. Plus they have a lifetime warranty. All in all, I think I will use the Emerge earbuds most of the time.

In-Ear-Style Noise Reduction Stereo Earbuds

Emerge Technology sells more than just headphones. They have all kinds of products for iPod/MP3 players and cell phones. They have cables and chargers for iPods and lap top computers. Have a look at their web site: < **http://www.emergeretail.com** > and check out their line. You can also read up and see what others have to say about their wares.

Article submitted by Marcel Dufresne

Emerge Technologies is a leading manufacturer of retractable consumer electronic accessories and peripherals. With over 150 products, Emerge markets to major retailers worldwide under the ReTrak brand name.

In this new era of portable devices, ReTrak offers the unique appeal of "true mobility". Consumers are moving away from cumbersome corded accessories - preferring the ease and convenience of retractable cables. Our commitment to innovation and design has led to the introduction of unique products which enhance virtually every aspect of mobility. From iPod to cell phone and computer to gaming we have solutions to vastly improve your mobile experience.

Microphone and Headphones

MaUsE
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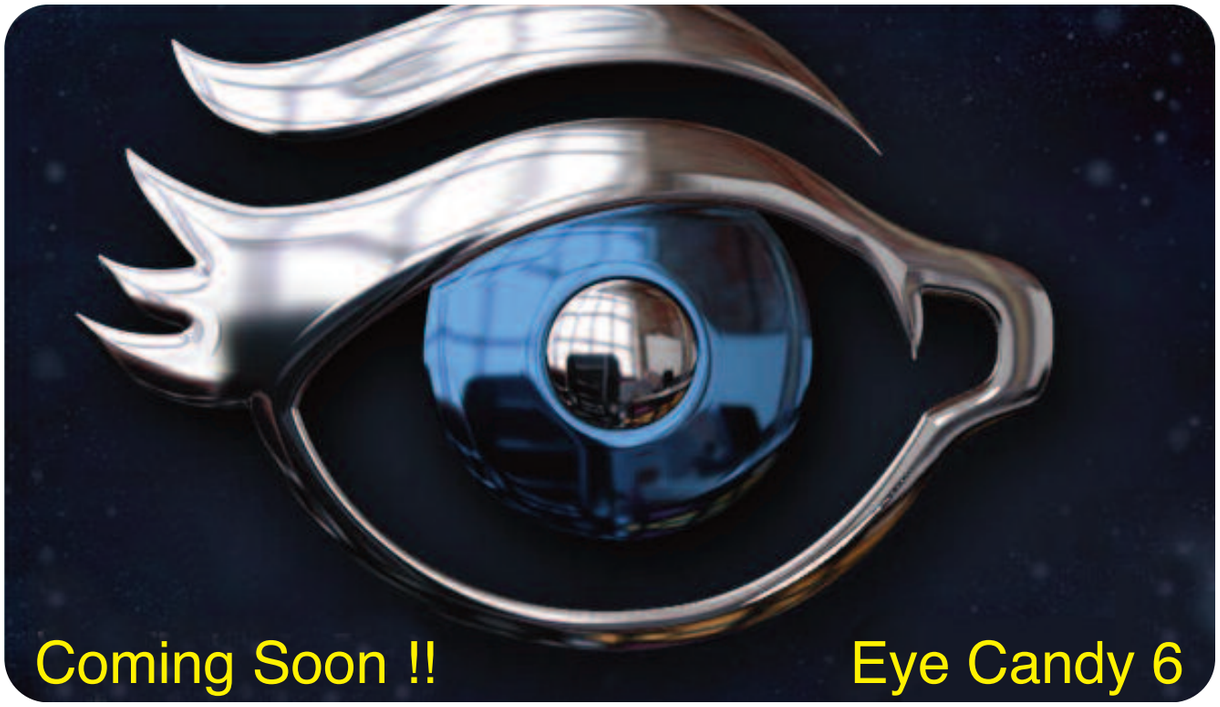
Eye Candy®

New Next Month - From Alien Skin !

Version 6 of Alien Skin's Eye Candy will be out early in December, just a few days too late for this issue. Graphic designers use Eye Candy to make slick realistic effects that are often used on titles, logos, and web pages. Watch for a write-up about Alien Skin Eye Candy 6 in next month's issue of the DoubleClick.



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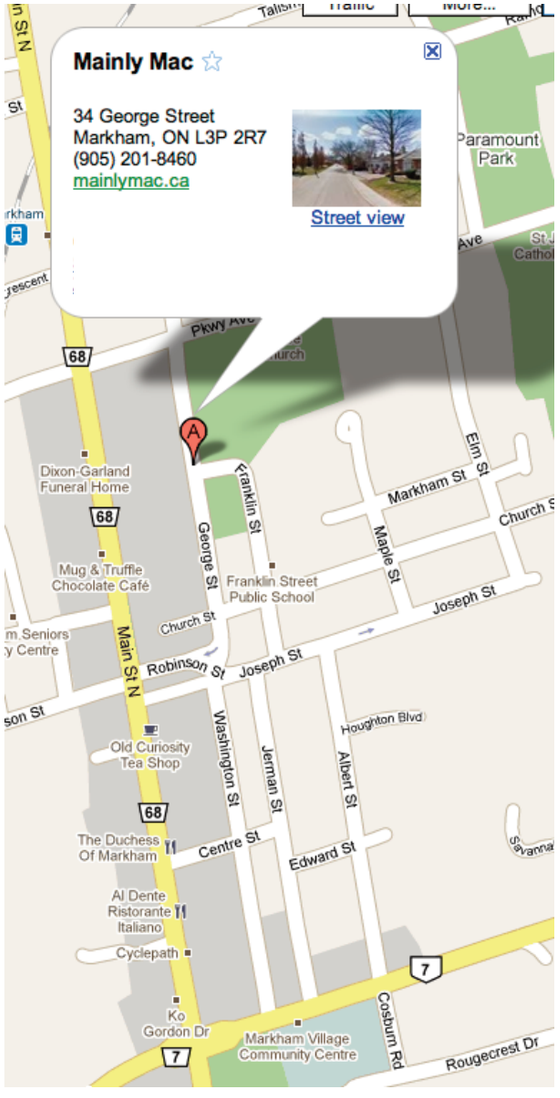

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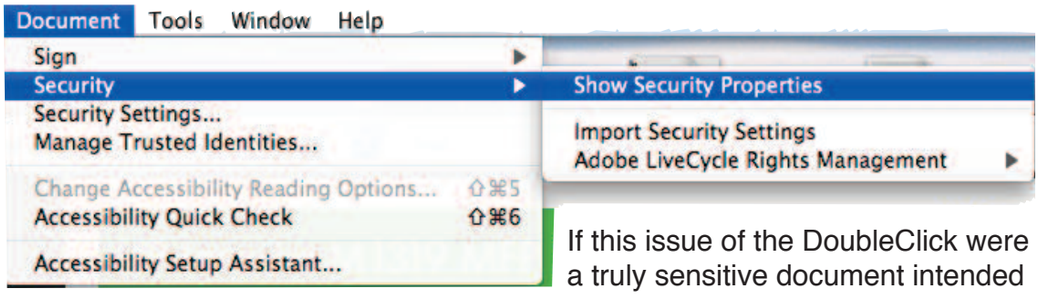
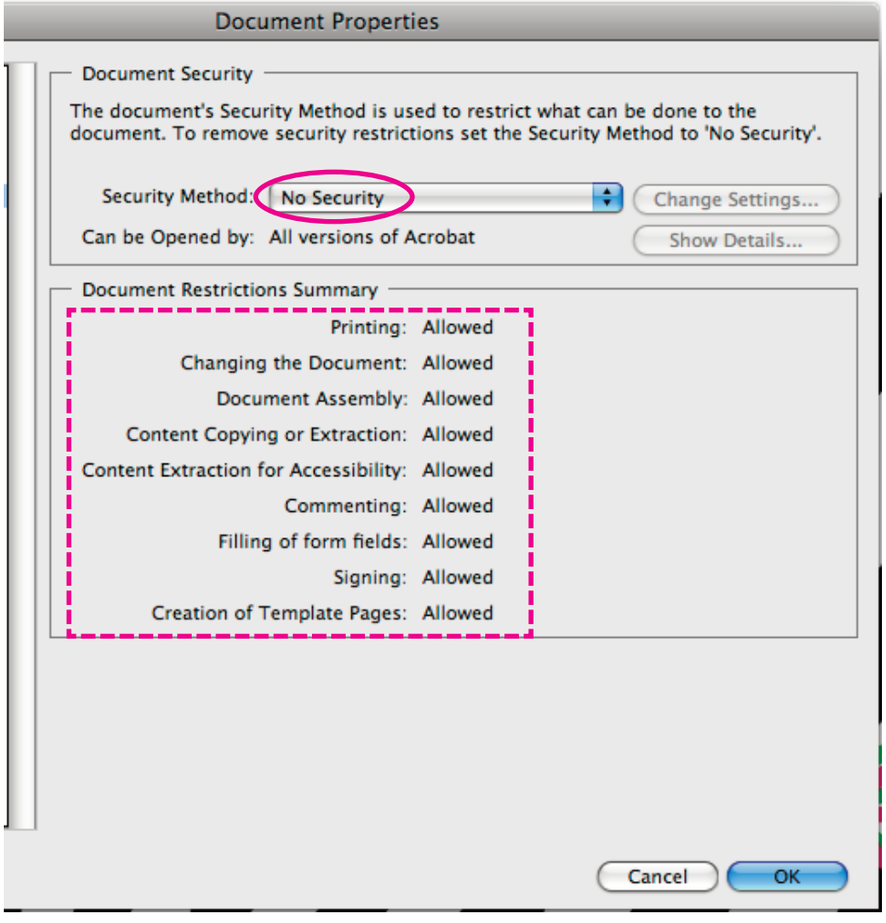


What you are reading is the December 2009 DoubleClick, a document created in QuarkXPress and saved by Quark as a PDF. For me to turn a Quark document into a PDF is as easy as using the **Export -> Layout as PDF...** found under the **File** menu. A lot of programs offer the option of saving documents as PDFs and for many desktop publishing activities the creation of a PDF marks the end of the creative process. The completed PDF goes off onto the Internet or is put onto a CD and it acts like an Acrobat Reader archive with the text, images, fonts and all of the content laid out ready to be served up on the screen of anyone who can read it. If you make PDFs with anything other than Adobe Acrobat you should be aware that the PDFs you create with your desktop publishing program, or any other program that offers the option of saving documents as PDFs, will likely not give you access to the same security options that the Adobe product will. In fact, I just exported this issue as a PDF and opened it with Adobe Acrobat (NOT Acrobat Reader) to check the security options of this issue while creating it and I found that Quark created the PDF with absolutely no security features at all. As you can see from the image below this issue of the DoubleClick can be opened and printed by anyone who has downloaded it and it can be altered in all sorts of ways. Everything is allowed. That is because I really don't think that anything that appears in the DoubleClick is of sufficient concern to warrant security.

If this issue of the DoubleClick were a truly sensitive document intended "For Our Eyes Only" I would have created the document differently and made it a high-security file. As you can see from the picture below, there are a lot of possible operations that are controllable if the end use of the document requires security. I could have made the DoubleClick so that you could not open it or print it without knowing a password, supplied by me. I could have made the document encrypted so that your computer would not be able to search its contents.

If you find that you have the need to create PDF documents for which security is advisable or important, you should be aware that unless you make the effort to set limits on what the public can do with them, once you send out your PDFs you have no way of retaining control over what is done with their contents.

Submitted by Michael Shaw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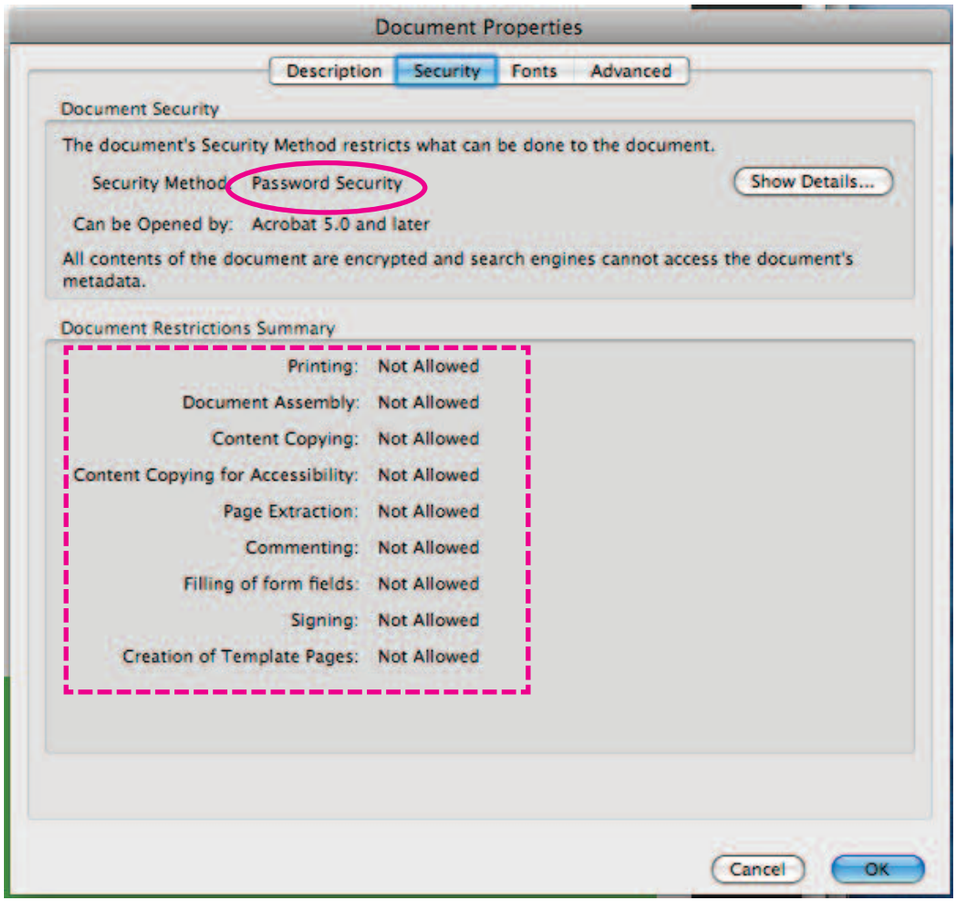
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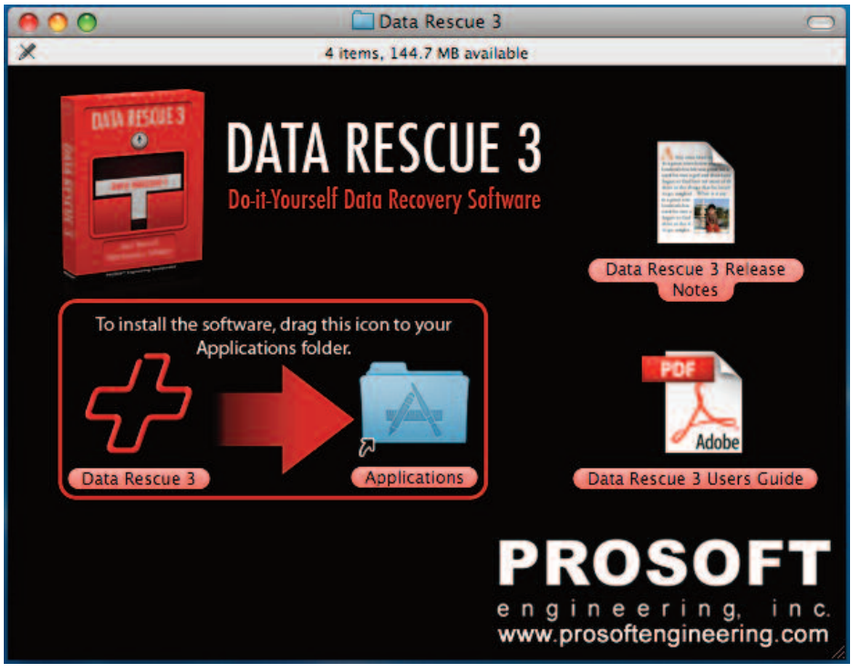
PROSOFT Engineering
DATA RESCUE 3

This is the basis of data recovery: unless you go out of your way to overwrite the data on your hard drive, flash drive, or camera card, it just sits here - even after you have deleted it and emptied the Trash.

So... what actually happens when you drag a file to the Trash and empty the Trash ? Actually, nothing at all happens to the file. What happens is the Directory of the drive that the file was on gets amended to indicate that the location where the file is sitting is no longer protected territory. The Directory is a catalog that exists on each piece of storage media that keeps track of what is on your media and where it resides. Every sector on the drive is assigned a unique location address and the Directory keeps track of the contents of each of them. Trashing a file just tells the Directory that the file's location is now available to write new data onto. What this means (the good news) is that if you delete or "lose" files due to your own carelessness or a disk error, the files are usually still there and unless you have continued using your computer and overwritten their locations they can usually still be seen, found and recovered **if you have a utility on hand that is able to ignore the information in the Directory and go right to the drive to see what is actually on it.** If a drive fails to mount or experiences a mechanical problem that prevents it from booting your computer, your files are still on the drive and under the right circumstances they can be seen and salvaged. If you experience software or hardware difficulties while downloading your pictures off your camera's memory card, or accidentally erase it while there are pictures you have not yet downloaded, your files are still on your memory card and under the right circumstances they can be seen and salvaged.

The big news from Prosoft Engineering for November 2009 is that **Data Rescue** their hugely powerful and successful "Do-it-Yourself" data recovery program, has been updated from Data Rescue II to Data Rescue 3. There is no way to confuse the two programs: The Data Rescue 3 graphical interface has received a complete makeover similar to the animated interface update that Drive Genius 2 received.

There are several reasons why Data Rescue 3 (DR3) is one of the best utilities on the market for the home Mac user for recovering all types of lost files, but the most important one is the remarkable ease of use features that guarantee that data recovery with this incredibly powerful program is a totally safe procedure, even for Mac beginners and people using it for the very first time.



The Data Rescue 3 program comes on a bootable Mac OSX 10.5 7 DVD (PowerPC and Intel) and requires a destination for saved files that is different from the source of the files you want to rescue. It can be installed on your computer simply by dragging the DR3 application onto your Applications Folder or you can insert and boot from the DVD if you want to use it to recover files from your internal hard drive. If you want to rescue a **large** amount of data from a drive you will need an equally **large** external USB, FireWire hard drive or a secondary internal partition to save to. This is important for the reasons I explained about files still being there until over-written. By saving to a different drive than the ones your "missing" data resides on you avoid the possibility of over-writing the very files you are trying to save.

The key features of Data Rescue 3 are:

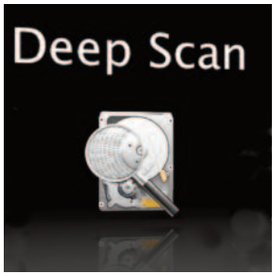
- DR3 can recover data from your drive even if your drive fails to mount on the Desktop or only partially works.
- DR3 requires Mac OS 10.4.11 or better, a DVD drive, PowerPC G4, G5 or Intel processor, and 512 Megs of RAM.
- DR3 will not write any files to the media you are recovering from.
- DR3 recovers a wide range of picture, document, movies and music files.
- DR3 now features FileIQ, the built-in ability to learn about and scan for new file types.
- DR3 has two distinct graphical interfaces; a fully animated interface for Macs equipped with a Quartz running Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and a non-animated interface for Macs that lack either of these requirements.

PROSOFT
engineering, inc.

DR3 is a complete professional data recovery package - it can recover data from all sorts of media, including hard drives, flash drives, camera cards, and ejectable drives. It may not be the type of software you are likely to need very often but with even one commercial data recovery procedure costing hundreds of dollars the first time you use DR3 to successfully recover your files it will definitely pay for itself. Only you know how long it took you to create your files and how precious your photos are.

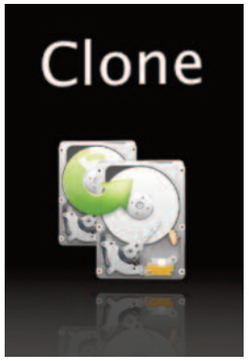
Data Rescue 3 is actually a suite of six utilities:

• 1 - **Quick Scan** uses the Directory information to locate files on your computer even if the drive will not mount. It only takes a few minutes (unless the drive is severely damaged, in which case it may take longer) and is the first recovery method to use for most occurrences of data loss.



• 2 - **Deep Scan**, as the name suggests, can take considerably longer, usually up to 3 minutes per gig but possibly longer, depending on the severity of the damage, and uses the most advanced techniques to find every recoverable file on your drive or media. It is best for drives where recovery large numbers of important files from a severely damaged drive.

• 3 - **Delete File Scan**, as the name implies, is a recovery tool that you can use to look for and recover files that you have recently thrown into the Trash and then felt the need to rescue back to the Desktop. Use for data loss caused by careless deleting.



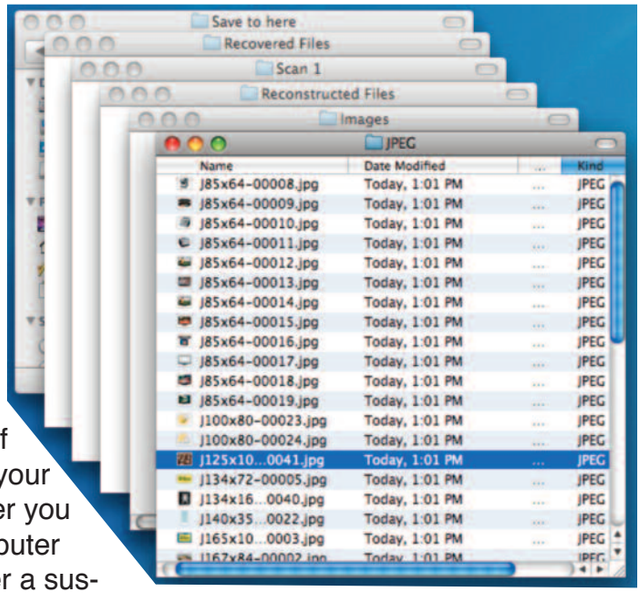
• 4 - **Clone** is available for when you are afraid that your drive is so badly physically damaged that it may not last long enough to thoroughly analyze. It creates an exact duplicate of the damaged drive that you can scan and work with just as if it were the actual damaged drive but without running the risk of jeopardizing the rescue operation by causing further degradation of your files due to electrical or bearing-related drive damage. Very good option for saving data on dying hard drives

• 5 - The **Analyse** function verifies your drive's ability to accurately read data. This function does not attempt to recover any lost files but it can be used to troubleshoot your drives if you suspect that severe damage may have occurred.

• 6 - **FileIQ** is a powerful new feature that enables DR3 to learn unsupported file types and recognize them for data recovery purposes. If the DR3 program cannot find files of a certain new type simply drag a few sample files of that type to the DR3 drop-in bin and the program will learn these new file types and add files like them to its list of file types it can scavenge for. The program comes equipped for most existing file types but new programs are being created every day that will make new types of documents that DR3 may not be ready for. **FileIQ** will make it possible to expand DR3's repertoire of savable file types. There will be even more proprietary software types and obscure program files that FileIQ can help rescue.

You can find out more about DR3 at: **www.prosoftengineering.com**

There is a link on the Prosoft Engineering website where you can download a free DEMO copy of the program and try it out before buying it. DR3 only costs US $ 99.95. You can buy Data Rescue 3 directly from the Apple Store, either in person or online, or get it from other online stores.

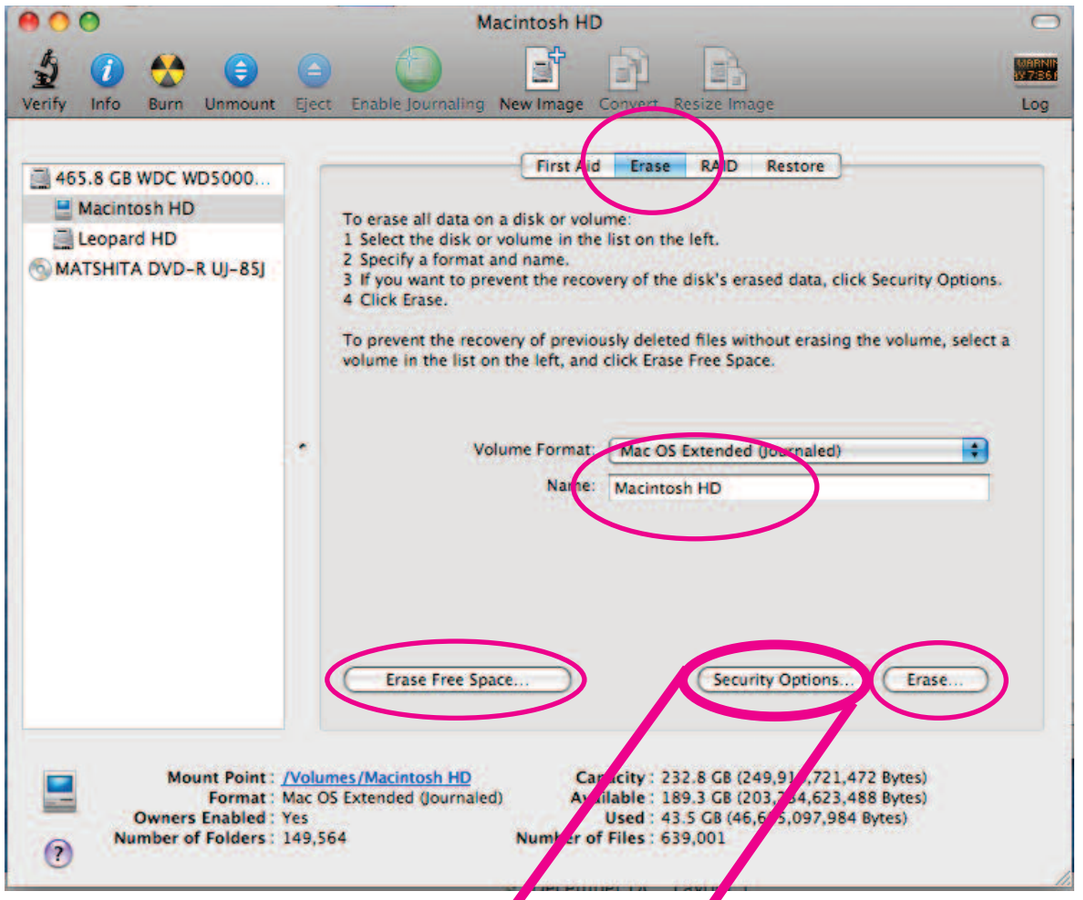


The thing to remember with any Mac OSX data recovery software is that there is a lot of stuff going on invisibly behind the scenes in Mac OSX. Background processes and routine system activities will quickly over-write your files if you continue to use your computer. The sooner you stop using your computer and shut it down after a suspected data loss the easier it will be for your files to be successfully recovered. A folder full of impossible to re-take photos and files that have been rescued from the brink of oblivion is a beautiful thing !

Article Submitted by Michael Shaw

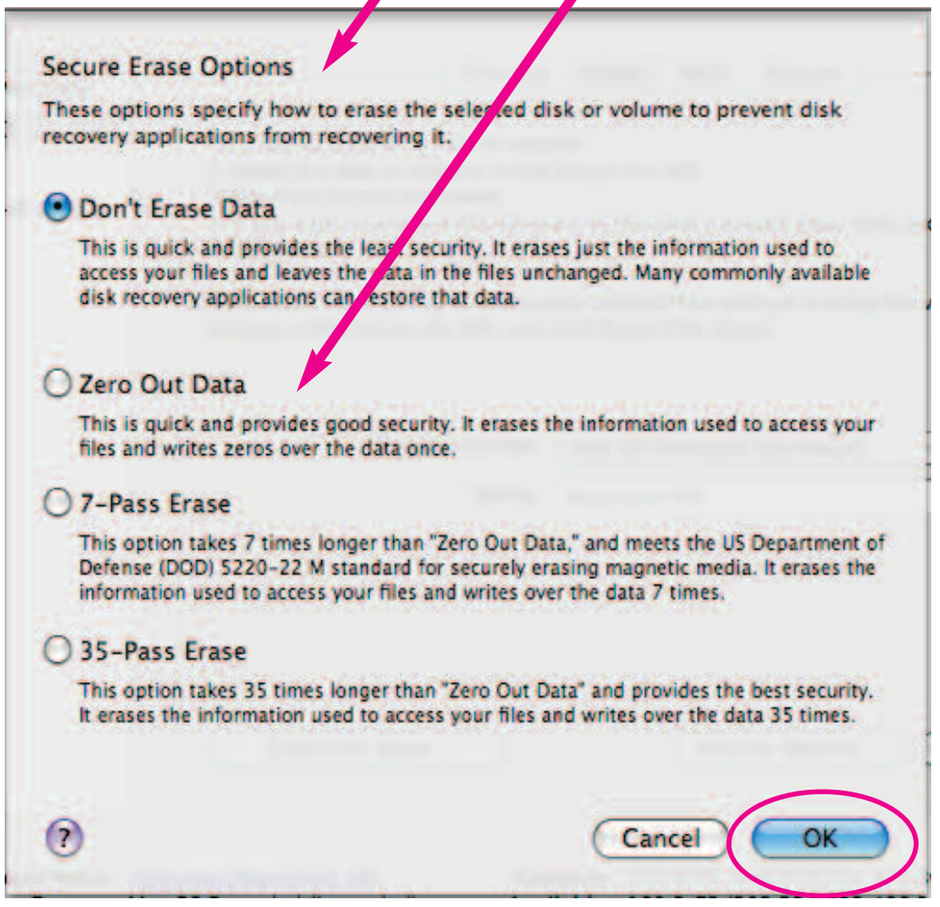
Seller Beware
A Cautionary Tale

Caveat emptor, the familiar warning that translates as “Buyer Beware” is only half of the story when you buy or **sell** an old computer. As is shown by the article previous to this one, it is very possible for someone to take your old computer after you are done with it, or after it dies an ignoble death due to motherboard failure, and thoroughly scour the hard drive in it for everything that you thought was deleted. I shudder every time I see a computer at the Goodwill or on somebody’s lawn sitting beside their garbage bags. And its not just hard drives - I once bought a external Zip drive on eBay that came with a bunch of what were supposed to be wiped disks that had lots of wonderfully entertaining files and pictures on them....



Securely erasing a hard drive really isn’t that hard. If you have a Mac with a FireWire port, you can start it up in “target mode”, mount it on the Desktop of another Mac, and use the Disk Utility on the other Mac to erase your hard drive. If you have the System disk that came with your computer you can start up off it and use the copy of Disk Utility on the System disk to securely erase your hard drive. If neither of these possibilities exists, you can cable your hard drive to another Mac using a universal drive adapter like the one shown in last month’s DoubleClick. This works with Windows as well as Macintosh.

Using the Disk Utility to scramble a drive is as easy as launching the utility, selecting the drive you want to erase and then clicking on Erase. Erase any partition or volume except the one you are running off of. Erase external USB or FireWire drives or camera cards. **You cannot erase anything except the drive that the computer is running off.** Your choices are to erase the drive, erase the free space on it, or do a Secure Erase. The program will offer Security Options and walk you through the operation of totally over-writing all of the data on your hard drive.


Secure Erase Options
These options specify how to erase the selected disk or volume to prevent disk recovery applications from recovering it.
Don't Erase Data
This is quick and provides the least security. It erases just the information used to access your files and leaves the data in the files unchanged. Many commonly available disk recovery applications can restore that data.
Zero Out Data
This is quick and provides good security. It erases the information used to access your files and writes zeros over the data once.
7-Pass Erase
This option takes 7 times longer than "Zero Out Data," and meets the US Department of Defense (DOD) 5220-22 M standard for securely erasing magnetic media. It erases the information used to access your files and writes over the data 7 times.
35-Pass Erase
This option takes 35 times longer than "Zero Out Data" and provides the best security. It erases the information used to access your files and writes over the data 35 times.
Cancel
OK

The problem with most security issues involving computers is that people don’t understand how data continues to sit on hard drives after it is deleted. Many people think that once they delete their files and empty the Trash their files are rendered impossible to recreate without a lot of trouble. Actually, the process of getting picture files off a computer is very easy if you have the right software. People may think to encrypt their banking information but they never bother to encrypt pictures, resumes and email messages.

Submitted by Michael Shaw

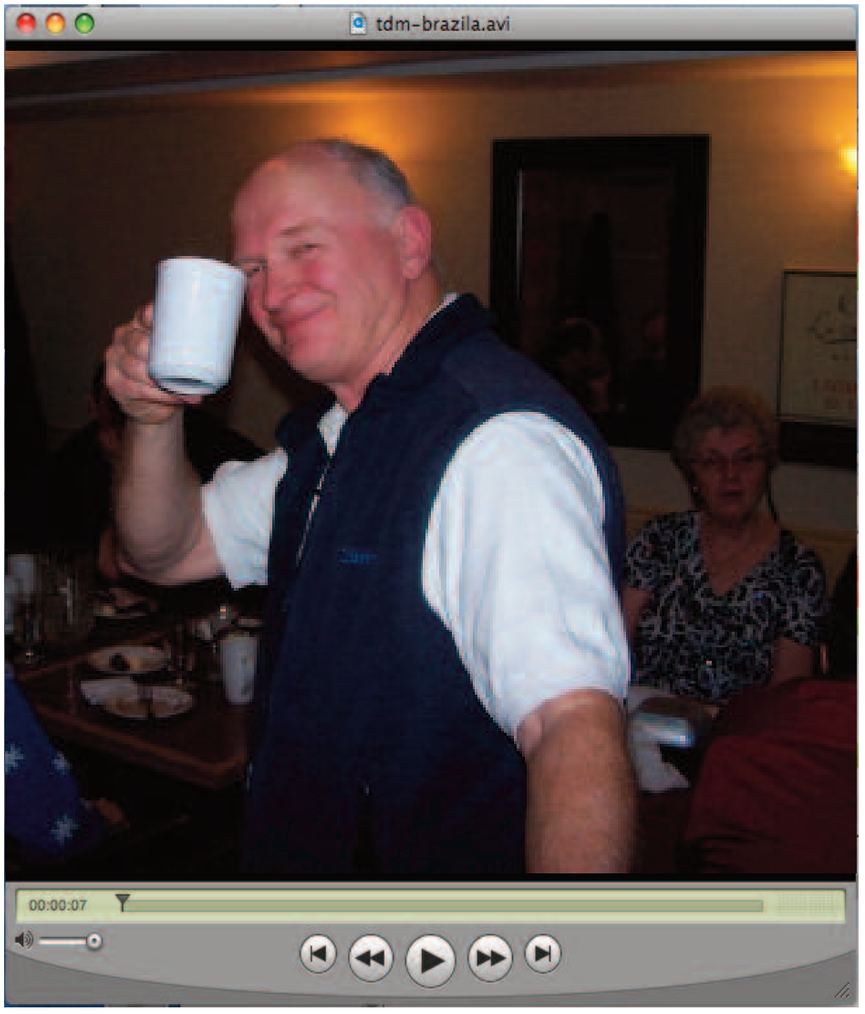
iMovie How-to
Getting Started

Part One: Planning
- Create Project overview - purpose, audience, story script, cameras, etc. (Well planned, well begun.)
- Actors (suggest actors sign releases if public commercial intent)
- Locations (review and setup ahead of record time)
- Video clips for iMovie
- Record video scenes for script
- Clips with camera(s)
- Be sure clips are long enough to edit
- Clips must have at least 5 seconds before and after your actor clip recording. This is gives time for editing sequences in iMovie.

Part Two: Editing
- iMovie has two parts - PROJECT (actual finished edited video) and EVENT LIBRARY (raw video clips from camera)
- Open iMovie - name new PROJECT
- FILE - Import clips to new EVENT LIBRARY
- Event Library contains all your clips for the PROJECT
- Select clips or sections of clips (yellow selection) in EVENT LIBRARY
- Drag clip to first PROJECT holder (upper section of iMovie)
- Select other clips, drag each into PROJECT

Part Three: Selecting Music, Photos, Titles,Transitions, Maps
- Select the "T" for title choice
- Drag to beginning of PROJECT clip
- Edit text on right
- Again select "T" for the end of PROJECT credits.
- Enhance your PROJECT with music
- Enhance your PROJECT with Photos or video from iPhoto
- Enhance your PROJECT with new Transitions between clips
- Enhance your PROJECT with World locator map

Part Four: Share finished PROJECT via YouTube, iDVD etc.
- SHARE tab select iTunes, iDVD, YouTube
- YouTube.Com: You will require a personal Youtube account setup prior to uploading. Select your youtube view option: - public or private viewing.
- Begin upload (have a coffee, tea or beverage of choice)
- Total finish time depends on speed of your Mac and on the upload internet speed.
- iTunes or iDVD are other SHARE options
- Media Browser allows GARAGEBAND to
- Import finished video to add background sounds.
- MobileMe needs to be setup prior to upload to the Apple Gallery paid service



Submitted by Chris Greaves

VINYLWRITER Boca -
Compact USB Recordable Turntable

GRACE DIGITAL AUDIO

Many of us have yet to throw out our old vinyl record collection. There is something about those LPs that makes it so hard to part with them or send them to Good Will. It must be all the memories associated with the albums. We keep them even though the record players that used to play them have stopped working. My old turntable refused to turn the last time I tried it. I guess we would be the same if we were immobile for a few years. And of course, there is the problem of old needles. Replacements are not easily found anymore. Fortunately for us, the means to play our old records is still here. The audio companies have recognized the need to keep putting turntables on the market. I have seen many of these lately at the local stores. They come in a variety of sizes, shapes, functions and prices. Some have a radio built in. Others play only 33 and 45 RPM records. With the USB attachment, the songs can now be imported and saved to your computer.

For the purpose of this review, I have a classy-looking, mid-range priced USB turntable from Grace Digital Audio. Right out of the box, I was impressed with the look and feel of this machine. It has a compact size and looks sleek, while still being sturdy. It looks like a new age record player, complete with four blue LED lights in each of the four leg supports. The player comes with a USB connection for direct recording to a MAC or PC, internal speakers for stand alone play, LED lit legs and power button, Audacity Cross-Platform Sound Editor to enhance and convert your music to MP3's, and a 5' RCA line-out to connect to your home stereo system. It plays and records 33, 45 and 78 RPM records. Listening to a record could not have been easier. It was simply a matter of plugging it in and putting it on the turntable and turning it on.

If the fancy LED lights are a bother, you can turn them off with a switch on the back of the player. I personally like the light around the on/off-volume control which is only lit when the machine is on. The built in speaker means no extra amplifier is required. Of course, you can attach your old powerful speakers if you so wish. The transparent dust cover adds to the modern look of this machine. The Vinylwriter Boca will record your favourite albums directly to your MAC. The built-in speakers allow for easy listening of your music and you can use this to monitor your music while recording to your computer.

The Audacity Cross Platform Sound Editor application included enables you to edit and save your recordings. You can use Audacity to remove static and hiss, alter speed, pitch and frequenies and make volume adjustments. Now you are ready to convert your songs to MP3 for use in an iPod, or burn them to a CD. All those albums can be added to your computer's music library. Sure these songs can be purchased from the iTunes store for about a dollar each, but I would bet you have more than a hundred songs on all those old albums. Besides, with this new turntable, you don't have to convert all the songs. You can just put them on the player and listen to them as is.

Here are some other points to take note of. You can only set up one album at a time. You can't stack records like you used to. This is a good feature because stacking led to imperfections in the sound pro-

duced. There is only a manual control to lift and move the tone arm into position for playing. The turntable does not turn until the tone arm is moved from its stored rest position (an energy saving feature, I assume). There is also a security strap for this arm for storage. LPs extend slightly beyond the cover and casing on the front/side/back. This is not a problem but rather an observation.

The user manual gives a few details on how to get set up and how to transfer your LPs to digital. I found the online video tutorial very handy. You can find this at:
www.gracedigitalaudio.com/page.html?id=32.
The website also has a series of online videos that clearly explain how to set up and use the equipment.

As is usual, the instructions for the MAC are much fewer than those for the PC. I was able to convert a 10 song LP into a CD in about an hour. The slowest step was actually playing the songs so that they could be recorded into the computer. I did not mind this as I sang along with the playing. I was also able to eliminate some of the static from this old record. Once I had the ten songs on my desktop in MP3 format, I was able to burn a great facsimile of my record that I will be passing along to my daughter (her request). More detail about the turntable can also be found at the Grace Digital Audio web site. You can order the turntable online from www.gracedigitalaudio.ca (if you mention you read this review you might be offered a 10% discount). The Canadian Distributor for all Grace Digital Audio products is Lectron Radio Sales which happens to be located in Peterborough. This turntable costs about $100CND (or you can get a refurbished one for $80).

If you are seeking something fairly affordable to simply enjoy your collection with, you might consider this model. I'm quite happy to relive my old collection, as well as finding second-hand records of my own. There is just something about listening to a record that is missing from a song on the computer or iPod. This might be the perfect item to purchase for that hard-to-buy-for person in the family.

Article Submitted by Marcel Dufresne

Founded in 2007, Grace Digital Inc. is based in San Diego, California. Grace Digital Inc. innovates a wide variety of award winning communications convergence technology products for business and consumer applications. Their capabilities include everything from product design and engineering, to manufacturing, marketing, distribution and supply chain management with a far-reaching distribution network that spans from the Americas, to Europe, Africa and Asia. At Grace Digital Inc., the vision is to create technologically advanced, yet elegantly simple communications convergence products with a commitment to the highest levels of quality, service and support for the customer.

(Screenshot from online training / instruction video)

LECTRON RADIO SALES LTD
Importers and distributers of quality brand consumer electronics since 1969.

Password Security
On the Road

I got a email message a few days ago from someone who expressed some trepidation about using internet cafes to check his email and conduct business while travelling. He was sure that his eBay information had been compromised after checking his eBay account from an internet cafe in the Far East. For people who do not own a netbook or portable computer that can go on holidays with them, there can be more than a few security issues the rest of us don't face.

Internet cafes, or "Points" as they are known in Europe, can be your link with home & friends while you travel, especially if you have a Yahoo, Hotmail, Facebook or Gmail account that you can access from anywhere in the world. Unfortunately you have no way of knowing how secure your information is when you are typing on a strange computer in an internet cafe for two reasons: firstly because internet cafes usually only have Windows computers and they can be infested with malware programs called "keyloggers" that can be installed on the computer to capture and save everything typed on them, and secondly because there really is no motive for the owner / operators of internet cafes to protect your sensitive data.

Keyloggers generally work by intercepting the chain of events which occurs in microseconds between when the person using the computer makes a keystroke and when the keystroke shows up on the computer screen. The keylogger makes a note of what key was pressed before such an interception and passes the same information onto a log, which can be recorded. This is a process that takes a very small fraction of a second, making it completely impossible for the person whose activity is being monitored to notice that anything is amiss.

May I suggest that if you do intend to conduct potentially sensitive business, like check your eBay and PayPal accounts, do online banking, and make hotel reservations from internet cafes while away from home you take a few precautions. One of the easiest precaution is that you take along a little USB flash drive with your account passwords on it. Or you could put your passwords into a Gmail (or Hotmail) message and that way you can get it wherever you are. All you have to remember is your Gmail password. **Of course you do NOT put your information in clear: you must disguise it.**

Even if I can't recall it my Ebay password is easily recognised by me when I see it in print. That is because the human brain uses memory on many different levels and visual memory is stronger than recall. We recognise and know a lot more than we can remember. My eBay password consists of a specific number of characters that looks like a random string of letters, (upper and lower case) and numbers. That really is the best type of password. My mother's maiden name or the name of my dog or cat can be figured out with a bit of digging but who would be likely or able to guess a password like "G1R5o4ve7R,"

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based on the name of my favourite Muppet mixed with the year that marked the death of that most despised of British monarchs, Henry the Bookburner, a.k.a. Henry VIII?

The trick is to break the password into several three, four or five-digit chunks and embed the password chunks into a much longer random string of digits like the one shown in the box above. If I told you that my password was composed of three short strings located somewhere in that window you would be none the wiser.

When I open and see the Gmail message containing that paragraph above I can zero in on the fourth line from the bottom and select a familiar short string of five digits, copy-past them into the password box, and then add another familiar string of five digits copy-pasted out of the line below it, and my ten-digit password has been inserted where required without my having to type any of the digits in it. If there were a keylogger program in the Windows computer I was using to do this it would register Alt-C, Alt-V, Alt-C, Alt-V, indicating that two copy-paste operations had been performed via the keyboard but there would be no record of exactly what had been copied or pasted. Alternatively, I could copy-paste a longer string of characters into the password box, say 15 consecutive characters, and then select and delete the 5 digits I don't want. The keylogger would record the action as Alt-C, Alt-V, Alt-Delete without being able to save a record of exactly what characters had been copied, pasted or deleted.

My best advice about doing sensitive internet communications over a publicly accessed Windows computer in an internet cafe in a foreign country is that you not do it unless you absolutely have to. Go to a Starbucks and use your own computer, preferably a Mac. Now that Intel MacBooks are available for a thousand dollars you can pick up an old travelling G3 iBook for doing email or a G4 iBook for doing email and Skype off eBay for the price of a good meal for four in a nice restaurant in France (or fish & chips for three in a nice restaurant in England or a burger with fries for one in the Mount Schilthorn rotunda in Switzerland).

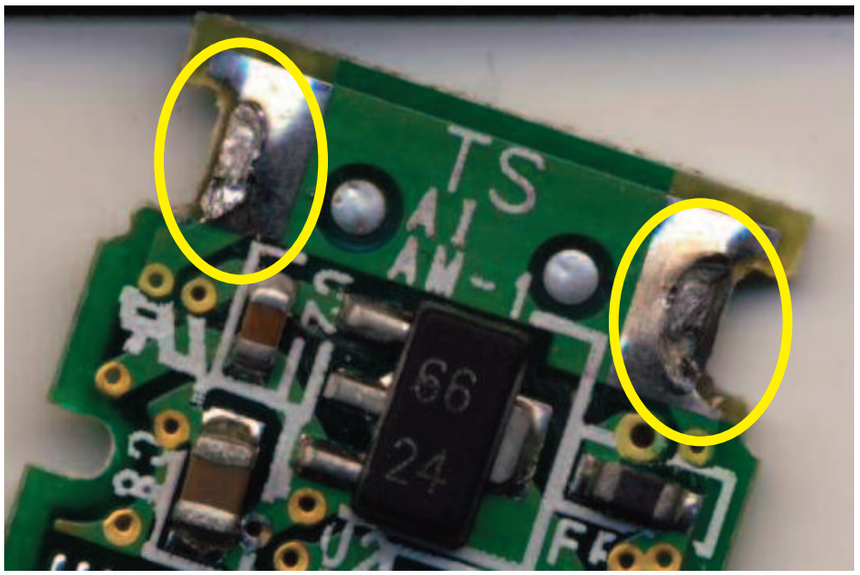
Submitted by Michael Shaw

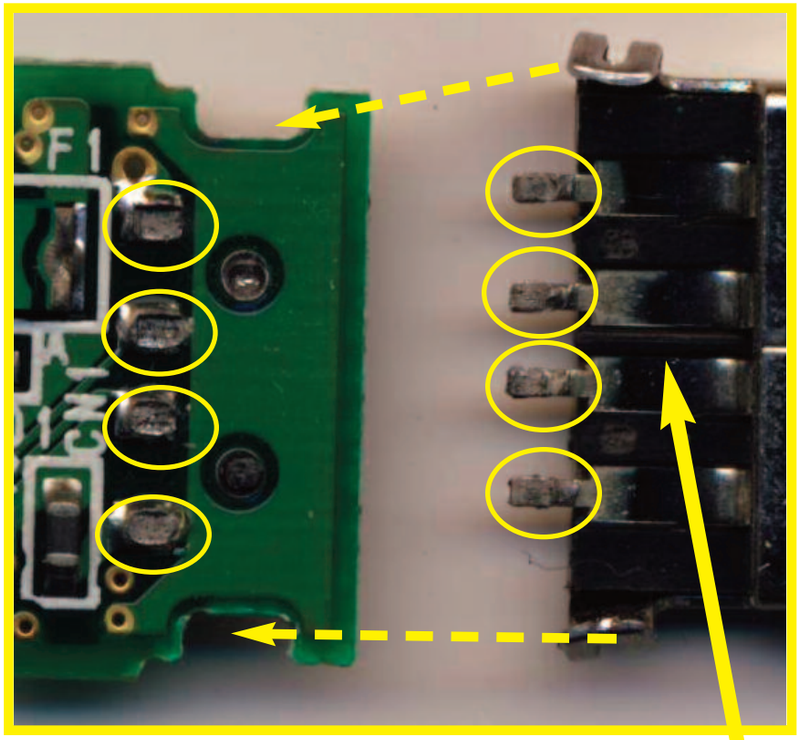
Kingston DataTraveler Bites the Dust: Let's Look Inside to Find Out Why

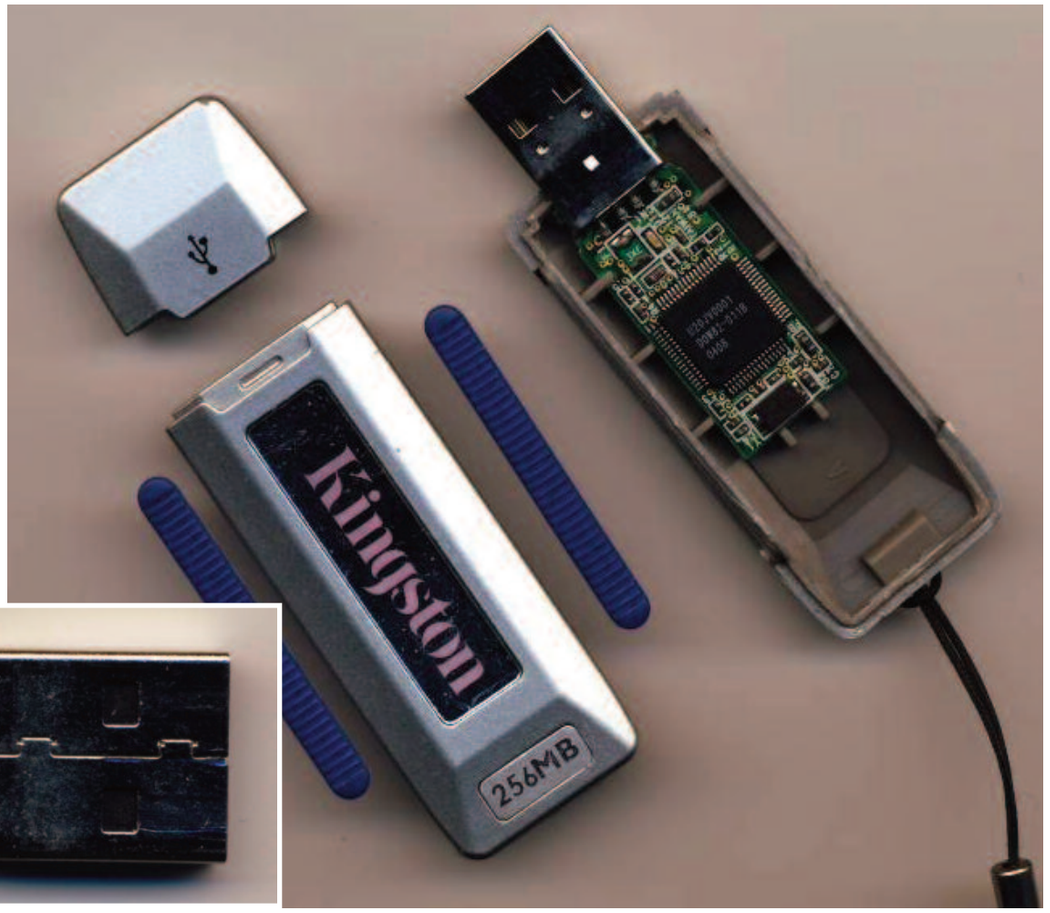
I have a little 256 Meg Kingston DataTraveler USB flash drive that became a bit flaky. Then it became totally flaky. Then it became dead. Usually flash drives are thought to last forever because they have no moving parts. That's the theory, anyway. But although they have no moving parts they can succumb to abuse. Mine did. And when it did I decided to break it open to see exactly why and how it had failed. This is what I found.

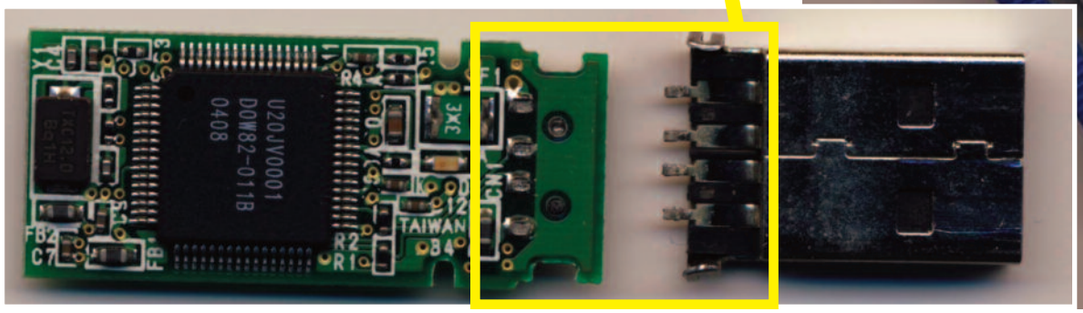
Before I opened the drive I noticed that the metal connector that plugs into the USB port was a bit sloppy. Not sloppy in the port but sloppy in the drive. It was possible to move it a tiny bit, like it was loose. When I opened the drive I found that the USB connector was secured to the board inside with two stiff clamping tangs that were neatly bent over to lock into slots in the board. To make the grip even more secure, the tangs were soldered to the card. For communications there were four stiff studs soldered to four connector terminals. I pried back the tangs and the connector and card fell apart. All six of the soldered contact points between the USB connector and the card showed discolouration or signs of sparking and arcing. Now I know why it was losing connection during use.

Submitted by Michael Shaw









Matias Tactile Pro 3.0 Coming in 2010 !

There have been few emails I have ever received that were more welcome than the recent press release from Matias Corporation indicating that their new **Tactile Pro 3.0** keyboard was almost ready to release. Almost....

The story of Matias tactile keyboards is based on their successful attempts to re-create a keyboard with the same feel as the legendary 1987 ADB Apple Extended Keyboard (M0115). This keyboard is a favorite with vintage Mac users due to the "tactile" feel and the unmistakable clackety-clack sound which comes from the mechanically driven Alps key switches it uses. I still have an Apple Extended Keyboard and I think I gave one to Aaron a few years ago. I read somewhere that the Alps key switches in the Apple Extended Keyboard are rated to last 10 to 15 *million* keystrokes. If you are a moderate typist, it should easily last anywhere 15 to 25 years, perhaps more. Even in this time of Intel-powered Macs and Mac OS X sometimes you will still see an Apple Extended Keyboard being used with a thoroughly modern Mac through the use of an iMate ADB to USB adapter (costing about $40.00).

But to get back to the real story here; Matias Corporation makes, and is known for making, really great keyboards. I wrote about the Matias **tactilepro 2.0** last summer and I have been using one to exclusion on my new Intel iMac. For me, this was an absolute no brainer: the Model 1243 keyboard that came with the mid 2007 24-inch Intel iMacs is a patheticly soulless flat aluminum pad that lacks all personality and charm. The day the Matias **tactilepro 2.0** came out of the box and the Apple Model 1243 keyboard went into the drawer was the last time I set eyes on it. And it's also the last time that I had to systematically go over everything I wrote looking for the inevitable missing letters.

Since last summer there have been no Tactile Pro 2.0 keyboards available anywhere. The first run of them, in white for Macs and black for PCs, sold out. I wanted one of the gorgeous white Mac ones in the worst way and was fortunate enough to get one of the black PC ones. But that is the past. Now for the future. The first stock of **Tactile Pro 3.0** keyboards is slated to arrive early in January of 2010 and Matias are now accepting pre-orders for North American clients via their Head Office in Newmarket, Ontario. You can fax your credit card and shipping info to them at 1-905-265-8744. Pre-orders will be billed in Canadian funds at time of fax receipt. The price is US $149.95 plus US $10.00 shipping and will be converted at the XE.COM exchange rate on the day of the transaction so your credit card bill may be slightly over or under US $ 159.95. Alternatively, you can mail a US Dollar cheque for US $ 159.95 to:

Matias Corporation,
221 Narinia Crescent,
Newmarket, Ontario, L3X 2E1

The Matias **Tactile Pro 3.0** keyboard features include:

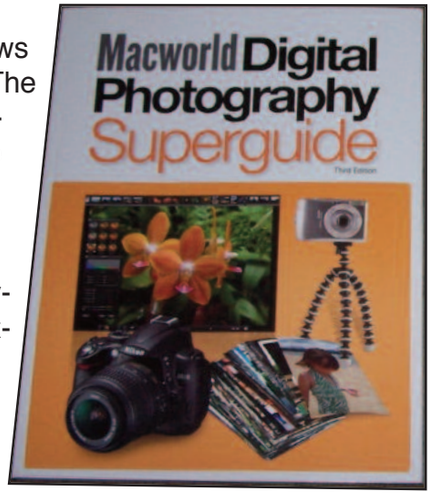
- Option key characters laser-etched on each key, for easy reference when typing special symbols and to prevent fading
- Caps Lock Key in the traditional location, with Caps Lock Light
- Volume Control Keys & CD Eject Key
- One cable to connect the keyboard to the computer
- 3 USB 2.0 ports: one located at the extreme left and right of the keyboard, plus a third one at the back in the middle of the keyboard
- **Premium quality Alps mechanical key switches, for maximum comfort & speed**

If my new Matias **Tactile Pro 3.0** arrives in time there will be a full review of it in the January 2010 issue of the DoubleClick. If it isn't there in January it will certainly appear in February. Look for it.

Article submitted by
Michael Shaw

MaUsE
Macintosh Users East

Two New Macworld Superguides: Digital Photography and Total Snow Leopard



Some of you may have noticed that there have been very few book reviews in recent issues of the DoubleClick. The reason for this is that we have not received any books for a long time. We used to get manuals from Peachpit Press, O'Reilly, and Pearson Educational but not any more. Publishers are reluctant to send them out. Everyone is cutting back on controllable expenditures during this time of economic drift and the high cost of international shipping has cut into our opportunities to receive books.

One exception to this is Macworld. In past issues of the DoubleClick I have written about several truly excellent Macworld Superguides. We have also featured them as prizes in our MaUsE raffles. For this Autumn Macworld has just put out two new books in the series, the 2009 Third Edition of the **Macworld Digital Photography Superguide** and the 2009 first edition of **Macworld Total Snow Leopard Superguide**.

Macworld Superguides are available in 3 convenient formats:

• 1) Downloadable PDFs for $13.00 offers several benefits: With this option you get immediate access to the book. The PDF version is also searchable and it can be printed from.

• 2) In printed book format, definitely my favourite, for $25.00 including shipping and handling. Order a full-color printed paperback book on high-quality thick, glossy paper. The printed-on-paper option gives a much more attractive package because the book is big, colorful, and portable. The printed edition is a full 8.5 X 11 inches and 134 pages for the Photography book and 102 pages for the Snow Leopard guide.

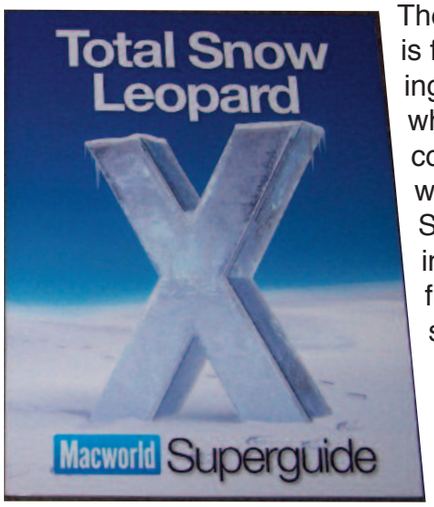
• 3) PDF on CD-ROM for $13.00 including shipping and handling: If you can wait for it and don't want to download the PDF, get it on a nice CD-ROM.

The **Macworld Digital Photography Superguide** is 134 pages of essential information for everyone who uses a Macintosh computer in tandem with a camera. Every year Macworld publishes vast amounts of information relevant to digital photography and many of the best tips for shooting, managing, editing, and printing digital photos have been brought together and published in this one beautifully illustrated guide. The Third Edition is the update with iPhoto '09 in mind.

New digital cameras rank right up there with VCRs when it comes to having a stunning array of powerful features that the average user neither understands nor uses. Now that just about everyone can afford a complex and powerful digital camera it is inevitable that most of them will end up in the hands of people whose understanding of the principles of photography is more on the lever of the Kodak Brownie Instamatic.

The **Macworld Digital Photography Superguide** starts with a 15-page section explaining how to buy a digital camera: Basic advice and explanation of photographic principles combined with a list of resources, terms and camera features. Figuring out what you actually need is the first step towards buying the right camera with features you are likely to need and actually use. This is followed by a 25-page "Take Better Photos" section that concentrates on the mechanics of actually shooting pictures. Lighting techniques and conditions, taking pictures of objects in motion, and unusual circumstances (like underwater and infrared photography) are discussed in this section. The book has following sections on scanning images and slides, managing and organizing your photo library, fixing common image and printing problems, creating photo projects (like posters, slides shows, and crafts), and backup strategies for protecting your images from accidental loss.

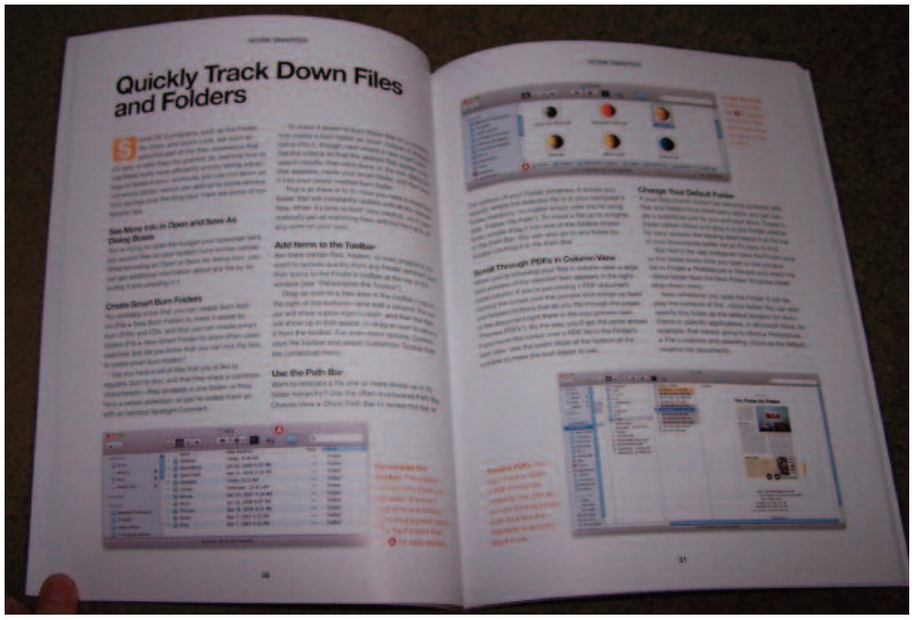
The book relies heavily upon the use of iPhoto '09 as a photo management and image-editing tool and has information about how to use the new face-recognition and GPS support built into iPhoto '09. This is one of the best in the Macworld Superguide series.



The other new Macworld Superguide is for Mac users who are either thinking of upgrading to Snow Leopard or who have already made the leap. It covers installation options of the software and explains in depth what the Snow Leopard (SN) user can expect in terms of what has been changed from Leopard and what remains the same after performing the upgrade.

Everyone who is making the move to SN can benefit from studying this book. So many of the SN features are subtle improvements that it is very easy to miss them and not take advantage of the changes. Its not that the new features are deliberately hidden - it just that people tend to see what they expect to see and many of the new features and application tweaks introduced in SN require a bit of digging to find and use.

The **Macworld Total Snow Leopard Superguide** covers the more obvious changes that everyone will notice, (like the new features in QuickTime, Preview, Image Capture, and Safari) but it also concentrates on making the user aware of the subtle improvements and changes in the Finder and other important system components.



Because a lot of what SN does is done in the background the book explains the importance of the new technology introduced in SN that will affect how the upgrade will affect future computing - like the change from 32 to 64-bit computing, and the importance of OpenCL and Grand Central Dispatch to the way software applications will be written for the Mac OS by other companies.

Submitted by Michael Shaw.

DIRECT FROM THE EDITORS OF MACWORLD

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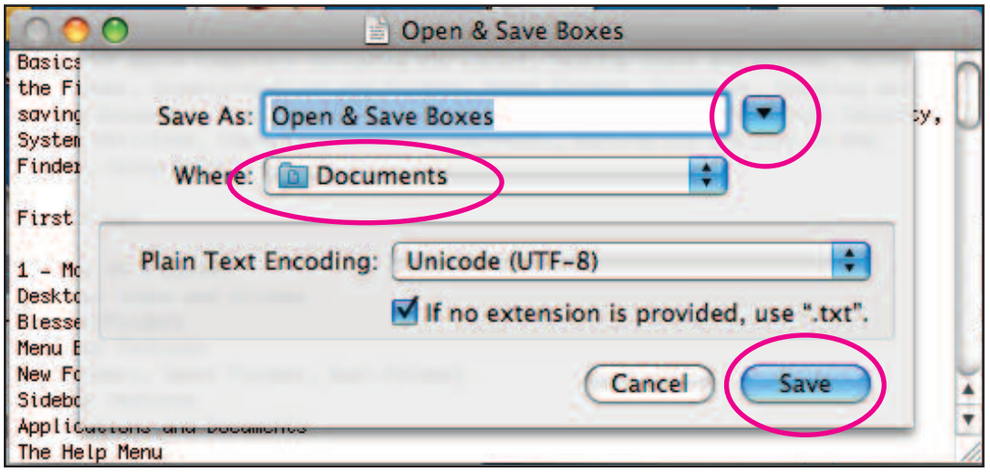
Computer Basics
Somethings to be Aware of

I had a lot of fun last month showing some new Mac users a few of the tricks that they can use to keep their Macs organised. More than once I told them how important it is to keep their files organised in a consistent manner in order to simplify the task of finding them. One of the tricks I showed them was the use of the expanded Save dialog box.



As it appears above the default Save dialog box is such a familiar sight that many new Mac users just whiz right through it - give a document a name, something short & sweet, and then hit Save. Big mistake. For two reasons. First, you should give your files descriptive file names, and don't worry about being too wordy. File names can be up to **255 characters** long, and the text field scrolls if you enter a name that exceeds the visible area. Documents with one-word names are incredibly difficult to recognise, remember and find. Don't be afraid to save a file as, "Aunt Trudy's not-to-be trusted truly awful deep-dish peach-pit sheep-dip cherry-stone pie recipe." You will be able to find it by searching for documents with any of those words in the name. Secondly, never dump a document into your Documents folder. If you start doing that you will soon have three or five thousand loose and orphaned documents in your Documents folder and the most you can process visually is about 30. **In your Documents folder you should have folders.**

If you look closely at the default Save dialog box above you will see the blue button to the right of the Save panel. That button will expand the Save dialog to make it look like the box to the right. The expanded Save dialog box **will** have a Sidebar with all of your drives shown. The expanded Save dialog box **will** have a place for the name of the file you are saving. It **will** offer you hierarchical access to every folder on your computer. The expanded Save dialog box **will** have a Save button. The expanded Save dialog box **will** have the ability to create new Folders at any destination on your computer. And the expanded Save dialog box has a Search button, a Return button, and a View menu that will allow you to view the contents of any window in your choice of three different formats.

In fact, the expanded Save box will prompt the user to find the right place for every document. As you will also notice if you examine the picture of the expanded Documents folder, it shows a Documents Folder that is full of folders. Find a Folder and the hierarchical menu shows its contents and you can select any folder as destination or create a new folder and name it.

The reason why the expanded Save dialog box is such a useful and important window is that it is especially important for new users that they start right off developing good organizational habits. It does no good for people to create documents if they immediately lose track of them. New users must develop an instinct for putting stuff where it makes sense to look for them. If they don't do this they will defeat the intuitive features that are built into the Mac OS and they will never develop a feel for the logic of the system or be able to use it to their advantage.

We all have habits. Good habits help us. Bad habits hurt us. Open your Documents Folder and find out what kind of habits you have.

Submitted by Michael Shaw